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Saturday January 20 1996

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Robert Maxwell: Was he murdered?

new serialisation starting today

MPs question role of Serious Fraud Office after verdicts in 131-day trial that cost public £25m

Maxwells cleared of fraud



Kevin, left, and Ian Maxwell leaving court after being cleared of fraud charges by an Old Bailey jury yesterday at the end of an eight-month trial

2.15pm, Liberal Democrat MP

Alex Carlile demanded a

statement from Attorney-Gen-eral Sir Nicholas Lyell to "ex-plain how the disastrous deci-

sion to prosecute [the Maxwells] at enormous public expense was taken, and to

take responsibility for that di-sastrous decision."

He added: "This long ex-periment with the SFO has proved to be costly and there

has been no improvement in

the prosecutorial decision-

making process as a result.
"The time has now come for

financial irregularities to be

subject to much more rigor

ous regulation. Prosecution is

a very blunt instrument in

Labour's City spokesman Alistair Darling said: "In view of the failure of this trial

Paul Boateng, Labour's spokesman on legal affairs,

said: "This is a grave and po tentially fatal setback for the

Serious Fraud Office that

calls into question the future

"There must now be a seri

Turn to page 3, column 1

ous question mark as to whether a fundamental over-

haul should now take place of

of that institution.

such cases.'

Tears of relief but pensioners 'torment' goes on

Dan Atkinson

20,553

HE future of the Serious Fraud night being called into question after the dra-matic acquittal at the Old Bailey of the Maxwell brothers, at the end of a 131-day trial which cost the public more than £25 million.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell sons of the publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell, were cleared in unanimous verdicts after 11 days' deliberation by the jury of conspiring to defraud pension funds. Financial ad-viser Larry Trachtenberg was also acquitted. Despite the aquittals, eight further charges remain under

which is responsible for investigating and prosecuting financial fraud, mastermindSerious Fraud Office

2 1994: Acquittal of George Walker, former head of the Brent Walker group of £184m fraud

Peck boss Aeil Nadir for alleged 5500m fraud left on file after he fied country. : 1995: Outrage when Roger Lev

steeced to 180 hours comme service for £58m traud. : 1992: Guiness II. Case agains Lord Spens and Roger Se Lord Spens and Roger Seelig Involving £10.5 million fraud charges collapsed 1992: County

£140m ineider on appeal.

jury trials serious fraud for myself and my family. I would like also to pay tribute to that family and to my law-After the jury announced their verdict, to gasps in the courtroom, Kevin Maxwell yers who have been a constant source of strength and rushed across and shook pride to me, as has my brother." hands with all 12 members

Kevin Maxwell said: "I gave evidence in this trial over a In emotional scenes outside the court, the Maxwell brothers hugged each other and expressed their delight and relief at the verdicts. Ian period of 21 days and, in his summing-up, the judge said he thought no jury had had a better opportunity of assess-Maxwell said: "I have much ing the honesty of the witness in my heart that I will keep

On other pages

THE acquittal of Kevin and Ian Maxwell is a seminal moment for the conduct of serious fraud investigations and trials in Britain. It was as much the Serious Fraud Office and the jury system which was on trial as the Maxwell brothers and their co-defendant Larry Trachtenberg.

Alex Brummer, page 22 ☐ The Maxwell ver dicts, pages 4 and 5

□ Leader comment, page 16

☐ Outlook, page 13

cover my attitude to the events leading to the collapse of my father's group has only to read a transcript of my evi-dence. I have nothing to add

The acquittals in effect extended to Robert Maxwell himself. The controversial tycoon was named as co-conspirator with Kevin on one harge, and his son's acquittal effectively means the pub-lisher's first hearing before a

costs are 225m plus possibly the most expensive traud viul to date, though the Guinne

although the Guinness appeals are still running. And estimates for the Blue Arrow trial range from 29m to £40m.

Lagai aid bill tops £10m. The 6FO employed four bantsters, including 2 QCs. Kevin Maxwell

was represented by a QC and two junior counsel, lan and Larry Trachtenberg had one QC and a junior counsel spisce. Kevin apent 21 days (4 weeks)

in witness box.
July of 7 women and 5 men deliberated for 48 hours over eigh days and spent 11 nights in a secret hotel. The longest retirement in jury history.

"Anyone who wishes to dis British criminal court over my attitude to the resulted in a not-guilty

The case leaves 32,000 pensioners asking who was res-ponsible for the loss of £440 million from their pension funds and where the unrecovered cash went. "We have a right to know who inflicted mental torment on thousands of pensioners for the past four years," a spokesman for the

and others in the past, we now need urgently to review the way City crimes are pros-ecuted and in particular the role of the SFO."

Minutes after the verdict at

bad day for the Crown in Court 22 Dan Atkinson and Vivek Chaudhary

One

more

that the jury returned at all was almost as surprising as the verdicts it was to deliver. So long had the seven men and five women spent on their delib-erations, 48 hours 17 min-utes stretched across 11 nights in secret hotels, that their arrival seemed an un-warranted disruption of the smooth running of Old Bailey Court 22.

As the verdicts were an-nounced, the victor of the hour, Kevin Maxwell's QC Alun Jones, was on his feet. Crown's life a misery for eight months delivered the coup de grace: Kevin, he declared, should not face trial again. His honesty had been proved under the fire of 21 days in the witness box. The remaining charges against him should be

dropped.
The Crown QC, Alan
Suckling, asked for a week
to think about it. With a sense of anticlimax, the judge departed, the court rose and Kevin shook hands with each of the jurors. His brother Ian appeared to be in tears, Chancery L while the stocky former ous to the mo university lecturer Larry was to him.

Trachtenberg executed a clumsy but heartfelt bear hug upon his own QC, Michael Hill.

Ian's wife Laura ran into court and threw her arms around her busband.

It was a far cry from the chaos outside, where dozens of photographers had been corralled behind metal barriers on the far side of Chancery Lane. When the court reporters flooded out into the road, civil war loomed, with the photographers demanding that the coppers remove this obstruction to their line of fire.

Outside, the brothers hugged one another. Giving the thumbs-up sign, and looking slightly dazed, Kevin read out a brief state-ment, which was followed by an off-the-cuff spec from Ian. Seconds later the police led them into a nearby office where they remained for 45 minutes. Four bottles of wine were

taken in. "We are just very relieved and can't say how we plan to celebrate," said Ian as he emerged with Laura. The couple and Kevin posed briefly for pictures before they made their way to a waiting Range Rover.

Mr Trachtenberg strolled out of court to a waiting car. He said he had tele-phoned his family in Amer-ica and would be meeting to Britain, in the evening. Smiling and looking relieved, he said: "I'm going to celebrate with a large whisky. Even in my darkest moments I never doubted British justice. I'm being congratulated for

being acquitted but you really need to congratulate British justice." If Mr Trachtenberg's exit was relatively low-key, that of Mr Suckling was practi-cally invisible. The defeated prosecutor wandered out in a business suit and made his way down Chancery Lane, as oblivious to the media scrum as it

The Beat Generation Generation 3 Rauical readiag in 1986 and 1996 compared in My Generation. a special cife supplement. free this Sunday with the Observer.

theObserver

Trollope concedes Cotswolds 'Moss Side' is a most pleasant and law-abiding place

John Ezard

T MAY only have 200 inhabitants — but Aston Magna, the village which novelist Joanna Trollope compared to the worst of Moss Side. won the moral right yesterday to call itself Aston Maxima when Ms Trollope issued a full retraction.

She confirmed that, as the Gloucestershire villagers

have always maintained, Aston Magna is "a most pleas-ant and law-abiding place in which to live and work". She ; joined with the Gloucestershire Community Foundation in apologising for "any embarrassment and an-

ed the £11 million investiga-tion into the Maxwells' af-

fairs. It is now the target of

heavy criticism for what was

seen as a four-year fiasco resulting in charges which

could not be made to stand up

MPs last night tabled Com-mons questions about the SPO's role following a string of high-profile failures to se-

cure convictions. Questions

were also being asked about

made during an appeal as trust patron at a private meeting.

Ms Trollope had told the meeting the village was "a grim straggle of scattered houses, many of them boarded up, with a population ... significantly immigrant.
"It's a place where all the goings-on you are accustomed to associate with a place like and it's a Cotswold

noyance" caused by remarks Ms Trollope had added:
"The only difference between
urban misery and rural misery is that country people are

by nature and tradition more reticent and inclined to suffer Aston Magna did not suffer

this in silence. The villagers protested that the boarded up houses were due to be replaced with new homes in March and that the 'immigrants'' were Poles fully integrated into the area after the second world war. In a letter to the Guardian Ms Trollope explained that

are considerably more)" The retraction, which follows further village protests, came in letter sent on behalf of

whom there are many) to help those in Gloucestershire — al the Have Nots (of whom there beit few in number — for the trustees and Ms Trollope to Blockley parish council, which covers Aston Magna. It admitted the remarks were

her remarks were in the context of "a strong plea for the Haves of Gloucestershire (of knowledge that there are beit few in number - for whom such words were only too painfully true".

Last night Margaret Nobes parish councillor for the village, said: "This did cause a lot of hurt but the general feeling is that the apology is accepted and the matter is

Weather 2 World news 6 Sport 8 Crossword 12

Outlook

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Howard backed on deportation

Vivek Chaudhary

OLITICAL asylumseekers should only be entitled to have one claim considered by immigration authorities before being deported from Britain, a High Court judge ruled vesterday.

The ruling is likely to have wide implications for asylum-seekers. Mr Justice Latham ruled that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, did not rian authorities. act unlawfully when he rejected a fresh asylum ap-peal by Ade Onibiyo, aged 20, a Nigerian student who is

a Nigerian student who is threatened with deportation. Nicolas Blake QC, for Mr Onibiyo, claimed that Mr Howard unlawfully tried to remove his client by not taking into account fresh evidence about oppression in Nigeria and the fate of Mr Onibiyo's father, Abdul, who was deported to Nigeria last was deported to Nigeria last October and has not been beard of since.

last December, presenting the unknown fate of his father of asylum-seekers. and the execution of the writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa, and eight other activists as fresh

evidence for his appeal.

Both the Onibiyos are opposed to the Nigerian military regime and Mr Onibiyo senior was a member of the Nigerian Democratic Move-ment in London. Since his deportation he has not been heard of and his family fear that he is being held by Nige-

The judge, dismissing an application for a judicial review, ruled that Mr Howard had been entitled to conclude that Ade Onibiyo's new application did not constitute a fresh claim and did not disclose any material that justified him reversing an earlier decision to reject his appeal for political asylum.

Lawyers representing Mr Onibiyo were however, given leave to appeal. The judge said that the case and his ruling raised important issues and "it seems to me to be time it was grappled with in the Court of Appeal".

of asylum-seekers.

David Burgees, a solicitor.

said: "It's very depressing and does not make sense. You get some political situations that are very volatile and always changing and should be grounds for a fresh claim.

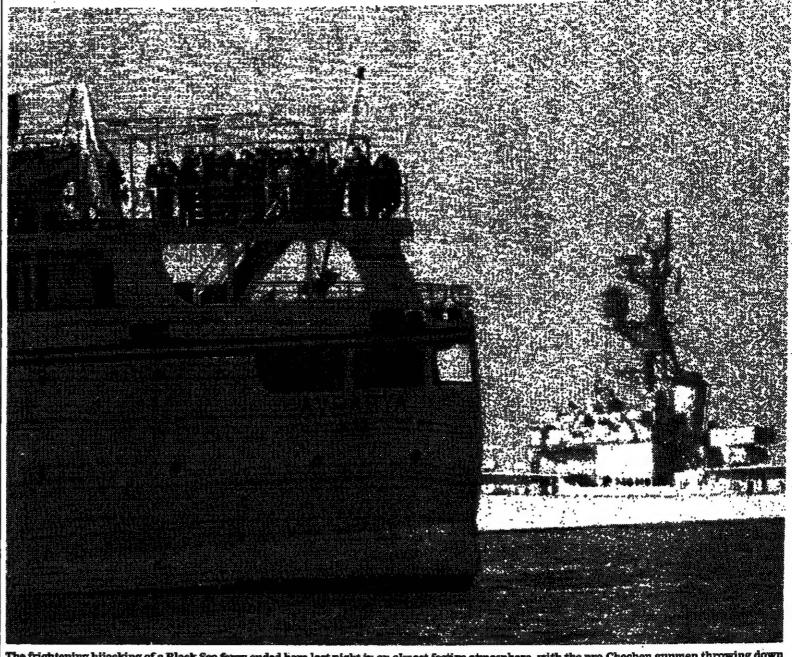
"The ruling is unfortunate and couldn't come at a worse time for asylum-seekers given the legislative changes that are in prospect."

A spokeswoman for the Onibiyo family campaign said: "We are preparing an appeal immediately and are obviously quite disappointed with the decision. We are hopeful however, because we have been given leave to appeal. We are still very worried about Ade's father and the fact that the Home Secretary did not take this into account

is a setback."

She added that Unison, which has been backing the campaign, attempted to trace Mr Oniblyo senior through heard of since.

Mr Onibiyo jumior, who is being held at the Campsfield detention centre, Oxfordshire, had been refused political asylum when he reapplied in a size of the ruling because it in the international Labour Organisation. "We think Abdul is being held and that the life of his family would be in danger if they returned to Nigeria."



The frightening hijacking of a Black Sea ferry ended here last night in an almost festive atmosphere, with the pro-Chechen gunmen throwing down their weapons and surrendering. John Hooper writes. As a rubber launch sped the group to shore through the dusk near Iriva, a fishing village at the mouth of the Bosphorus, local supporters of the Chechen cause chanted slogans, lit torches and danced round a bonfire on a headland less than half a mile from the ship.

The negotiation to end the hijacking of the Avrasya was carried out by a three-strong team, shuttling a dinghy between a naval patrol boat and the hijack group, Turks opposed to Russia's hombardment this week of Chechens holding another group of hostages in the Dagestan villiage of Pervomayskaya. Just before leaving the ship, one of the gunnen, speaking by cellular telephone, said: "We hit our targets." According to the captain, they had turned the ship into a floating bomb by strapping explosives to the fuel tanks and other parts of the ship. During the hijacking they had threatened to blow up the vessel in the Bosphorus.

Already questions were being asked, not least in Moscow, about the deal the Turkish authorities had struck to end the affair so abruptly after three days of uncertainty. According to one report, the hijackers were promised prison sentences of only eight months if they surrendered. The Avrasya spent yesterday encircled by Turkish naval and coastguard ships. Shortly before 5pm black smoke issued from the ferry's funnel and it made a wide, slow turn in front of the headland to cheers and chants from the onlookers.

Worry at rail safety cuts

Rebecca Smithers and John Mullin

ABOUR yesterday ex-pressed "serious con-cern" about the imminent departure of half the most senior and experienced members of Railtrack's safety tation in May.

There are suggestions of di-quiet within Railtrack's senior management as the

than had been planned.
One executive, Peter Mona-

ghan, missing for 10 days, was discovered yesterday in a north London hotel suffering from stress. He was undergo-ing treatment at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital for a suspected nervous breakdown. projects privatisation.

Among those to depart are John Mitchell, controller of safety standards. He took the job only six months ago, but is to retire. Another three of the eight most senior staff

directorate, are also quitting. David Maidment, controller of safety policy, is to retire shortly, and two other senior staff members are also leaving. Several more junior staff are will also leave as Rail-track completes two safety related

Railtrack denied there was anything suspicious in the de-partures, nor did they com-promise safety standards. With the safety projects com-pleted, the inspectorate's

The weather in Europe LOW Sunny Intervals Warm front Occluded front Snow ---- Trough

Forecast for the cities Around the world Stranbourg Sydney Tel Auty Tenenfe Toleya Toronte Turis Valenda Vancouver Vance Vance Vancouver Vance Vancouver Vanc

Switzerland:
A very cold day with a brisk easterly wind adding to the chill. Most places will be cloudy with scattered light show flurnes, eithough eastern Austria may have some heavier show late in the day. Max

France to threeten rain, and that means the Riviera is likely to have a scattering of showers. Elsewhere it should be a largely dry day with a good deal of mist and low cloud. Max temp ranging from 13C in the south-west to near OC in the

Another very unsattled day with lots of heavy showers and some more general spells of rain. Max temp 11-17C. Max terup 1 -----

Raily:

The odd light anow flurry is possible in the far north, but much of half will have a dry and bright day with the best of the sunny spells in the south.
Max temp ranging from 2C around Milan to 14C in the south.

the extreme south.

Greeos:
Cold again today with surry spalls and a tew scattered showers which will fall as light snow in the northern hills. May temp mently around aC but lower in the far north and a bit higher on the

Television and radio - Saturday

BBC World

Siziafast
S.00am BBC World Nama. 8.30 Forget-MoNot-Farm. 6.45 Creesy Crawles. 7.00 The
Artica Luoch. 7.19 The Return CI
Dogstellar. 7.40 The Resilve Wild Guide To
British 6.05 The Socret Garden. 8.35 BluePeler Special 8.00 Miles And Angelo. 8.30
Dr Who. 10.00 Best Of Kiloy. 4.045 The
Best Of Anne And Nich. 12.30 The Best Of
Pubble Mill. 1.15 Prime Weather 1.30
Easterdors Ormibas. 2.50 Prime Weather.
2.55 Creecy Creelles. 3.10 Count
Ductate. 3.30 Blue Peler. 3.55 Wild And
Cracy Kids. 4.30 Island Race. 8.00 Dr
Who. 5.30 The Level Lads. 6.00 BBC
World News. 6.30 Big Brest. 7.00 Noof's
House Part 8.00 Casualty 8.65 Prime
Weather. 9.00 A Question Of Sport. 9.30
Ales Smith & Jones 10.00 The Stand Lip
Stoy. 10.30 Top Of The Pops. 11.00 The
Britiss Empire 11.30 Wildfile 12.00 Lard.
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Toder, 7.39 Prayer for 19 Day 7.55
Weather, 8.00 Toder, 8.88 Weather, 8.00 Toder, 8.88 Weather, 8.00 Toder, 8.88 Weather, 9.00 Force, 9.88 Weather, 9.00 Force, 9.88 Weather, 9.00 Force, 9.00

BEC World Service

BBC World Service

BBC World Service can be received in England on Min 648 Mtz (468m) and in Western Europe on Ltv 198 Mtz (155m)

7.00mm Newsday 7.30 Fourth Estate 7.45 On Serven, 8.00 World News 8.18 From The West-Note 8.30 People And Politics 9.00 World News, 8.40 Words Of Faith 9.15 A Joly Good Show 10.00 World News, 7.40 World Of Faith 9.15 A Joly Good Show 10.00 World News, 7.40 Blade to Science 10.25 The Corne Shifters Guide to Science, 10.25 The Corne Shifters A Guide to Bickerhedopy 10.45 Sports Rounday 11.00 Newsday, 11.30 Englan Teaching, 11.45 Letter from America, 12.00 Newsday, 11.35 England Lot of Morial News, 2.00 Newsday, 11.30 England Teaching, 10.00 World News, 2.05 Sports Polymorth 4.00 World News, 3.05 Sportsworld, 4.00 World News, 3.05 Sportsworld, 6.00 News 1 Surremay, 6.01 Weekend, 6.30 Red Cward

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Netws. 8.20 Europa Journal. 9.00
Cyburschool 10.00 TBA. 11.00 Super
Stop. 12.00 Masters Of Beauty, 12.30
Groat Houses Of The World 1.00
Videolephing 1.30 Telefici Slaces 2.00 NFL
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Amenca. 8.00 Free Sport. 4.00 NM
Power West, 8.00 German Tebia Tennia
Champioriship. 8.00 ITM Wind Neses. 8.30
Air Combet. 7.30 The Best Of The Selfra
Scott Show 8.30 Dateline International
10.00 Volve Assalan Masters Highlights.
10.30 Itm World Nices. 11.00 The Tonight
10.00 Volve Assalan Masters Highlights.
10.00 The Tonight Show With Jay Loro. 12.00 Late Night With
Conan O'brion. 1.00 Talbin Blass. 1.30
The Tonight Show With Jay Loro. 2.20 The
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Blass. 4.00 Shown Liro Boot The Solina
Soot Show. 6.00 Impirations.
Discovery

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5.00 Guf Wur Saturday Stock (until 8 Open) 5.00 Wings over the Guf 7.00 Wings over the Guf 7.00 Wings over the Guf Part 3 8.00 Wings over the Guf Part 3 8.00 Fight Dack 9.30 The Pronding 10.00 First Flights. 10.30 First Flights. 11.30 Thro Throdiera 72.00 Azmuin 1.00 Close

Television and radio — Sunday

Q Injetion

6.00cm SSC World News, 6.30 Talling
Tales, 6.46 Molvin And Maureen's MusoAforms 7.00 Buston Moon 7.15 Count
Duckale, 7.36 Wild And Crazy Kids, 8.00
Coral Island, 8.25 Bive Peter, 8.30 The
Boot Street Band, 8.30 A Question of
Sport, 15.00 Best of Killing, 16.45 The
Boot Of Anne And Nick 12.30 The Best of
Petible Mel. 1.18 Prime Weather 1.20 The
Bill Omnibus 2.15 Hot Crets, 2.25 Prime
Weather, 2.30 Builton Moon, 2.45 Melvin
And Maureen 3 Muso-A-Grarra, 3.00 The
Ard Moureen 3 Muso-A-Grarra, 3.00 The
Ard Moureen 34 Prime Weather 4.30 The
Creat Andquos Horn, 5.00 The World At
War 6.00 BBC World Nows, 8.30 Casties,
7.00 SS 8.00 Hotel De Les 8.25 Prime
Weather, 9.30 The Kennedys, 19.25
Songs Of Praiso 11.00 Preston Front
12.00 Just Good Frends 12.30 Tho
Againa Civrato Hour, 1.25 Blate's Sovern
2.30 Anta Karenina, 3.16 The Trouble
With Medicine 4.10 The Agains Circles
Hour 8.05 Blate's Seven.
BBC World

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Vine 7.00 BBC World News 7.20 Tha
Week, 6.00 BBC World News 7.20 Tha
Week, 6.00 BBC World News, 8.25
Time Out The Clothes Show 10.00 BBC
World News 14.20 The Late Show 11.00 BBC
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Record 7.00 BBC World News 7.25
Window On Europe 6.00 BBC World
Nose, 8.25 Time Out Food And Drink,
6.00 BBC World News, 7.20
Window On Europe 6.00 BBC World
Nose, 8.25 Time Out Maltimode 10.00
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12.00 BBC World News, 72.10 Monny
Programme 1.00 BBC Newscoon, 4.00
BBC World Headings (Maltimode)

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7.00mm News Brioling 7.10 Somethers;
Understood, 7.65 Weather 8.00 Nows, 9,18
Sunday Papers, 8.15 On Your Farm 8.40
Sunday 9.80 The Week's Good Couse, 9.55
Weather, 19,00 Nows, 19,10 Sunday Papers,
19,15 Letter from America, 19,20 Morring,
19,20 Letter from Morring,
19,20 Morring,
19,20 Letter from Morring,
19, 7.00em News Briefing, 7.10 Somet Understood, 7.55 Weather, 8.00 No.

BBC World Service

7.00 Quality Street, 8.50 They Died With Thek Boots On, 11.00 The Helicopter Spies, 1.00 Following Her Heart, 2.50 Ladybug Ladybug, 8.00 Rugged Gold, 8.00 Me And The Kd. 8.00 Marinstan Murder Mystery 10.00 Murder One, 11.00 Forthess, 12.40 The Movie Show, 1.10 Blindsided, 2.45 Misrees, 4.30 The Varnon Johns Story.

4.00 The Three Faces Of Eve. 2.40 Onl What A Lovely Wer 5.00 Roosier Copburn. 7.00 My Coisha. 4.00 The Big Easy, 11.00 it Came From Outer Space, 12.25 Novida Smith. 2.35 Ma Nutl Chot: Maud. 4.25 Close. Sky Sports

8.00 Socret Edra. 12.00 Big Time Boxing. 1,00 Goals On Sunday. 2.30 Hold The Back Page 2.30 Futbol Mundial. 4,00 Ford Escort Super Sunday. 1,178 8,00 Big Time Hoseng 9,00 International Cricket Mightights 11.30 Football Special 1,00 World Wresting Federation Royal Rumble -Lura 4,00 Com-

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8-30 Str Jumping: 8-30 Live Alpine Sking

11.45 Alpine Sking: 12.30 Live Alpine

Sking: 2.00 Tennis: 8-16 Live Football

10.00 Tomis: 11.00 Sts Jumping: 12.30

Pro Wresting: 1.30 Close:

Sky One

7.00 Hour Of Power. 8.00 Undum. 11.00 Graul-lashed. 1.00 The Hit Mitz. 2.00 Sar Trok. 2.00 The Advantages Of Brisco Countinion. 4.00 Size Trok. Voyager 8.00 Word Wresting Federation Action Zone. 8.00 Great Enciges 6.30 Mighly Morphin Power Rangers. 7.00 The Simpsons. 7.30 The Simpsons. 8.00 Beyerly Hilling 9021 9.00 Sar Trek. Voyager 10.00 Highlander 11.00 Rengade. 12.00 Solvet 12.20 Outhman. 1.00 Si Minutes 2.00 Showoif Of Londo. 2.00 Hit Mitz Long Play.

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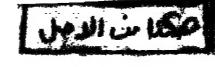
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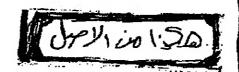
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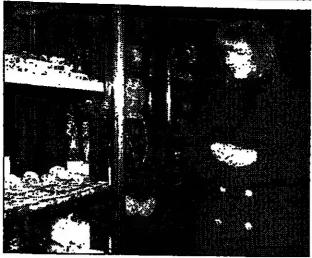
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5.00 Builde Stations 6.00 Britain's Secret Warners 7.00 Wondors of Weather 7.30 Inne Travellers 8.00 Bush Tucker Men 6.30 Army C Clarks a Mysterona Universe 9.00 Showcase 10.00 Reaching for the Sincs 11.00 Fight Deck. 11.30 Invention 12.00 The Professionals 1.00 Come







Who's paying? The Duchess out shopping and, below, Texan Steve Wyatt, left, and financial consultant John Bryan





Fergie settles for first class as the price of fame

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

IKE her sister-in-law before her, the Duchess of York sought refuge from scandal in the American capital yesterday — but triggered further rumours about both her financial woes and her romantic life.

Taking a leaf from the Princess Diana Book of Crisis Management, Fergie holed up in a swank Washington hotel, seeking to dodge the press swarm she don. She was all but a pris-

celled a Concorde trip to New York and flew to

Initial suggestions that she was seeking to save money — amid revelations that she is £3 million in debt — were scotched by her arrival at Heathrow in a chauffeur-driven limou-sine and her decision to take four first class seats to Washington, for her nanny, her two daughters and herself, at a cost of £9,750.

Yesterday's itinerary proer intrigue. Her the Four Seasons Hotel, first official engagement

vague brief stretches to raising money for "international scholarships", and

which counts the former Sarah Ferguson among its board of advisers. Apparently shy of the press hounds in the lobby below, the Duchess held the closed-door session in her room at the Four Seasons. The meeting had pointedly not been mentioned by her London office in advance of the US trip, which said that all engagements except the Chances for Children events were "private".

Georgetown's smartest was supposed to be lodgings, as speculation reached fever pitch over how much money she was spending and with whom.

The Duchess had caught royal watchers by surprise on Thursday when she al-

The Duchess's greatest linked to the Duchess.

Mr Wyatt is best known for the batch of photographs showing him and Fergie at embarrassingly close quarters — including some of the pair frolicking in the south of France with Princess Beatrice. The discovery of the pictures in Mr Wyatt's London flat was widely credited with pushing the Yorks toward separation in 1992.

Welcome to the USA. . the Duchess of York gets a warm greeting at Dulles airport yesterday

The Millennium Society refused to comment yesterwhether the Texan and his former British darling were due to meet again. Speculation again. Speculation abounded that the two had hoped to see each other at the Wyatts' lush Virginia home, but that the intense

media presence had scup-

Brilliantly manipulative

and verbally dexirous
Labour whip, determined
to see Labour win at all
costs. To avoid being "outed" over his homosexual-

Jimmy Mackenzie (Lab):

Ex-Communist and Clyde-

side ship worker, he is Old

Labour and despises the modernisers. Ultimately al-

final straw. He props up the

bar, refusing to accept a drink from anyone to avoid

ment of Clause 4 was the

ity, he outs himself.

embarrassment has come from her financial troubles, with reporters inquir ing. "Who's paying the bill?" at every turn. The cost of her suite at the Four Seasons is \$1,600 (£1,100) a night. Frequent guests in-clude Jordan's King Hussein and actors Tom Hanks and Demi Moore.

Hotel staff refused to say who was paying, but Cate Wyatt told the Washington Post it would not be the Millennium Society. The ing internal flights to New York, dining and accommodation, is estimated at

£20,000. Words of support came yesterday from another former friend, the Texan financial consultant, John

Censorship row over cod fax inquiry

IBERAL Democrat and Labour MPs yes-terday threatened to join forces and push through publication of new allegations that MPs accepted cash for political favours.

sion by the Attorney-General to delete allegations by the owner of Harrods, Mohamed d-Fayed, from a draft House of Commons committee report. Unless Sir Nicholas Lyell changes his mind when the Commons Privileges Com-mittee meets on Monday, the Liberal Democrat and Labour MPs are likely to issue a mi-

nority report containing all the allegations. Monday's meeting is due to consider the draft report on the committee's inquiry into the use of a Commons letter-head by the Guardian as part of its investigation into a weekend stay at the Ritz Hotel, Paris, by the former Cabinet minister, Jonathan Aitken — the so-called "cod fax affair".

At least four Labour MPs are likely to join Liberal Dem-ocrat MP David Alton in de-manding at Monday's meet-Fayed submitted to the committee during its inquiry Nicholas has ruled that the claims raise issues outside the committee's strict remit to investigate the fax. The row centres on the

committee's year-long inquiry into events surrounding the weekend at the Ritz, where Mr Aitken stayed at the same time as three Arab

The Guardian was reported to the Privileges Committee, of which Sir Nicholas is a member, after former editor Peter Preston sent the "cod PHOTOGRAPH: J SCOTT APPLEVHITE fax", purporting to come from Mr Aitken's office in the Comthe infamous toe-sucking episode. Describing the mons. The fax was used to secure a copy of Mr Aitken's bill, which the newspaper Duchess's fiscal worries as 'much ado about nothing", Mr Bryan told Sky News she enjoyed a good relation-ship with her bank. "I don't required to confirm that part of the invoice had been paid by a business associate.

think she needs any bail-out," he said. When confronted with the evidence, Mr Aitken who was The Duchess, Princess minister for defence procure ment at the time, said that part of the bill had been inad-Beatrice and Princess Eneenie are due to return to vertently paid by a Saudi London in the middle of next week. businessman. Said Moham-

med Ayas, and the balance paid by Mr Aitken's wife. by Mr al-Fayed in evidence to the committee in November The MPs are demanding that the "full, unexpurgated version" of the committee's report is sent to the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, Sir Gordon Dowa guarantee that all the par-ticipants in the affair are called, including Mr Aitken and other ministers and exand other ministers and ex-ministers accused by Mr al-Fayed. Failure to agree a fresh inquiry into Mr al-Fayed's allegations looks cer-tain to provoke Mr Alton, said to be furious at the pro-posed censorship, to publish a

powerful committee to inves-tigate the affair properly. In addition, Sir Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton, Kemptown, has asked to give evidence to the committee to clear his name, after allegations from Mr al-Fayed that he had received an undeclared £5,000 payment for help in fighting the Fayed brothers' battle with Lonrho. Sir Andrew has told the Guardian he did not receive any money but £5,000 was passed from Mr al-Fayed to a constituent, a former director of Lonrho, who offered to help Mr al-Fayed in his battle over

the ownership of Harrods. The row over the evidence given by Mr al-Fayed ex-ploded last Monday when Sir Nicholas tabled a "filleted version" of the committee's report for publication, which removed 90 per cent of his quotes — leaving the Harrods chief commenting only on the use of the "cod fax". The claims removed from the report included Mr al-Fayed's naming of Mr Ayas — widely reported in the press - and the name of the woman Mr al-Fayed, who owns the Paris Ritz, claims paid the rest of Mr Aitken's bill.

Also removed is any reference to the role of Sir Andrew Bowden and new allegations about payments made to former corporate affairs minister Neil Hamilton, who has denied receiving any money. His legal action against the Guardian has been stopped by a judge because the action liamentary privilege.

Commons bar the star of TV soap opera

Andrew Cuif

T IS being billed as Julie Goodyear meets Douglas Hurd, or the Rover's Return meets Panorama. ain's first political soap. promising an unflattering portrait of the passions, scan-dals and sleaze of

MPs Edwina Currie and Ken Livingstone are to have walk-on roles in Annie's Bar — a series produced by Prince Edward's independent production company — as the soap blends topical insights with fictional hokum. Channel 4 is deliberately

courting controversy with the project. Peter Ansorge, com-missioning editor of drama, said the everyday story of parliamentary folk would "tread on politicians' toes".

Director Baz Taylor said: brir "We would like to be as enter-

"We would like to be as entertaining and scurrilous as we can be. MPs are there to be shot at — they are fair game."

But with a General Election possibly only months away, the production team are aware of political sensitivity.

Writer Andy Armitage said: "We are very even-handed: if we were partisan we would be dead in the water."

other Tory on the re-selection "chicken run".

If real-life MPs take exception to the 10-part series, Michael Brown, the Conservative MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes who acted as an adviser, could be blamed.

"If it all goes wrong, it will probably be my fault," he said. "It is drama and entertainment, but I think this prosible thing would be for them dead in the water."

Guess who: From Essex Man to Old Labour

TO AVOID legal problems tions of a number of reallife MPs. But viewers will try to spot the politicians being caricatured.

☐ Terry Dunning (Con): Essex man elected in 1983 election; speaks like a mar-ket trader and is the Tory whip most MPs are scared of — a party fixer and bully, who made his fortune in the late 1970s running a carcrunching business.

☐ Vernon Du Chine (Con): Former Secretary of State,

demoted to the back benches as a scapegoat for the party's misfortunes; but forced onto the "chicken run" because of boundary changes.

☐ Antonia Courtney (Con): Media hungry politician, who gives firm impression Cruella de Vil. On the left of the party, flirtatious with colleagues and journalists, and called predatory by

🗅 Graham Keegan (Lab):

But there are controversial gramme will restore faith in | to take the makers out for torylines about a gay Labour | politicians to a certain extent | lunch and drinks as often as storylines about a gay Labour MP being outed, a Tory MP and Lloyd's name on the brink of bankruptcy, and another Tory on the re-selection "chicken run".

said. It is drama and enter-the programme: The sen-life tainment, but I think this pro-sible thing would be for them said.

I use the parallel of The Bill or London's Burning."

Mr Brown, who confirmed he was homosexual after

Mr Armitage said: "We spent six months researching and a lot of the stories were

discarded because they were too fantastic: no-one would have believed them."

The drama ignores the front benches. "All the characters are backbenchers, they are the Rosencrantz and Guil-

will be topical up to the min-ute of transmission. The first episode features a byelection and goes out at 9.30pm on February 1, hours before the dec laration at Hemsworth.

strained by the result with Tory candidate David Dash-

wood romping home.

Annie's Bar is a famous

Westminster watering hole
for journalists to invite MPs. but for the series it has been transformed into an all-pur pose bar where MPs of all par

ties meet.
"Annie's Bar is our Rover's Return and the corridors of Westminster are our Brook-side Close," said Mr Armitage. Although the series is being

made by Prince Edward's Ardent Productions, his involve-ment has been minimal ac-cording to Channel 4. He was present at the first read-through of scripts and apparently enjoyed a series of jokes at the expense of his femiliv

family.
He was in Ireland yesterday on an official two-day vist and missed the launch at West-minster. Even if he had wanted to attend he would denstern of Parliamentary have been barred because of politics and we see political life through their eyes," he does not set foot in the



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Maxwells cleared of fraud after 131-day trial that cost public £25m

Continued from page 1 the process of bringing to jus-tice those responsible for City

But George Staple, the di-rector of the SFO, insisted the outcome of the case would not damage the organisation's future. "It was a prosecution that had to be brought. We must respect the jury's deci-sion. I would not see it as a waste of taxpayers' money." He added: "It is our job to conduct a thorough investiga-

tion. That has happened in

this case. The jury considered

In the courtroom, immediately after the verdicts, the Crown applied for and was granted a seven-day morato-rium during which to cou-sider whether any of the remaining charges in the Maxwell affair should pro-ceed to trial Kevin is named

the matter for many days and tice Phillips, presiding, that have reached a verdict. The "it would be ... oppressive to criminal justice system has seek to try him again at vast was accused of conspiring 22 million as collateral for recession.

functioned in the way it is designed to." There would be no internal inquiry, he said.

In the courtroom, immediately public expense". The verdict with his father between July 3 and November 6, 1991, to define the defendants "acted honing in the courtroom, immediately at the worst moments of carries of Bishopsgate Invest-

the group's history".

Kevin spent 21 days in the witness box, describing his father as a bully; Ian and Mr Trachtenberg did not give evi-The case arose in the wake of Robert Maxwell's death,

in some of the outstanding charges.

Or Robert Maxwell's death, reported on November 5, 1991, when it amorged that a charge it amorged that a char charges.

Alun Jones QC, Kevin's barrister and the undoubted star of the case, told Lord Justice Phillips. presiding that

ciaries of Bishopsgate Invest-ment Management (BIM), a Maxwell pension-fund com-pany, by dishonestly misus-ing £100 million, the value of pension-fund shares in Israeli printing-equipment company

On the second charge, Kevin, Ian, aged 39, and Mr Trachtenberg, aged 42, were accused of conspiring together between November 5 and No-vember 21, 1991, to defraud

have been in the interests of pensioners — given that the debt-laden Maxwell empire was tottering into bankruptcy
to use their assets in this

way. The actions, therefore, had been dishonest.

In defence, Mr Jones suggested the Maxwell empire had always been one group, that assets had routinely been shifted around, and that Kevin had acted properly in interests from a hellish

Ian Maxwell cried. Kevin shook the jurors by the hand. For the Maxwells, the trial was over. For the Serious Fraud Office, it was just beginning. One man dominated. Generous one minute, brutal the next: Robert Maxwell...

Reports by DAN ATKINSON, PATRICK DONOVAN, CLARE DYER, THERESA HUNTER, IAN KING RICHARD NORTON-TAYLOR and PAULINE SPRINGETT









All in the family . . . In death, paterfamilias Robert daxwell (left) dominated the trial. Penurious Kevin (top) makes his way to court by Underground train, while his brother Ian (centre) arrives on foot with wife Laura Kevin's wife Pandora (bottom) followed proceedings

The trial's true defendant reaches

Spectral presence of the wheeler-dealer born in Slovenia as Jan Hoch leaves his sons to fight alone for their reputations

E WAS the unseen defendant, the invisible presence throughout the rial. At one point to imagine what answers Robert Maxwell would have given had he been in the dock, but there seemed no way of men-tally conjuring up the tycoon in the air-conditioned, computerised courtroom.

Not only was its ambience (somewhere between a sixth-form classroom and an airtraffic control centre) just about as un-Maxwellian as it is possible to get, but Mr Jones on November 29 declared the entire trial was a result of Maxwell's death. Had the publisher lived, "the group would not have collapsed".

Much of the evidence concerning Robert Maxwell was meeting chaired by the tycoon,

who slammed his fists on the table and accused fellow directors of being "disloyal bastards"; the "commanding pres-ence" of a man who dominated every meeting he attended; the mogul for whom the law was there to be stretched.

Even the better side of his nature, as disclosed in court, was not exactly full of surprises: it was not news that, in the words of Kevin, "he could be generous, he could be charming". nor, as was later testified, that he was highly thought of in Israel. Rather it was the duller

side of Maxwell that jolted the millionaire who asked his wife for a separation but the same, who regularly relieved himself over the side of his boat when he wasn't snoring so loudly the aforementioned wife was driven to (British Airways).

Sir John Harvey- Implication was not even the big-even the big-shoring so loudly the aforementioned wife was driven to (British Airways). spent Christmas with her just the same, who regularly

seek a cabin of her own, who prided himself on never hav-ing bilked on a bank debt. This was the Maxwell

whose auditors, Coopers & Lybrand, never suspected he was "indulging in criminal or undesirable activities" and about whom his daughter-inlike him . . . He didn't have to | \$1 billion less than that. like me."

Above all, Mirror MAKWELL Maxwell as the standard business saved a famous British company the printer, BPC — from collapse, and thus stood

alongside Sir John

in his own way, with mixed results. And finally, at the peak of the boom, in 1988, he overstretched himself fatally. borrowing hugely to pay \$2.6 billion (£1.7 billion) for US publisher Macmillan, a law. Kevin's wife Pandora, US publisher Macmillan. a could say: "I didn't have to company worth perhaps

> Far from this reckless behaviour, the look-alikes: British Common-

wealth, Color-oil and Brent Walker. Everyone was doing it. And the Maxwell

He had gone on to buy a reasonably healthy company (Mirror group) and to run it but the mirror group) and to run it.

But the mystery surround-But the mystery surround-ing Robert Maxwell's early life and career — and the fur-ther mystique shrouding his connections with intelligence

services — meant he could never be just another tycoon. His early life was spent in abject poverty. He was born under the name Jan Ludvik Hoch on June 10 1923, in the Slovakian village of Solot-vino, the son of Orthodox Jewish farm labourers.

Had the second world war not intervened, Maxwell might very well have become a farmer himself, but at the age of 15, having enjoyed little formal education, he found himself fighting for the Czech army in central Europe. Aware of the peril of being a Jew in a Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia - Maxwell's the Maxwell family were among those slaughtered at Auschwitz, and he himself was arrested and tortured by the Nazis at one point — Maxwell fought his tray agrees Frage with his way across France with the Czech Legion, arriving in

amples of Maxwell's muchwritten-about courage then his age, formally adopted the name Ian Robert Maxwell, and signed up to fight for the British Army. After the war, during which he was pro-moted to Captain in the field

mercurial business career got

Robert Maxwell's achievements as a businessman are well docuwhat is less relationship with the

ments of the

old eastern bloc, and in particular his involvement with the old Soviet Union. His entanglements with for-

One of the best-known ex- | eign governments, notably in | the Soviet bloc, were encouraged from the beginning by prompted Maxwell, initially through his Pergamon Press, to publish scientific works by Russian and east European

writers. Maxwell first caught the atin Normandy and later won tention of the intelligence the Military Cross, Maxwell's agencies through his com-

> guages. George Kennedy Young, head of MI6's economic section in the late 1940s, contacted Charles Hambro, the banker who was a senior figure in the wartime

used Maxwell to their own ad-

vantage as he developed a net-

tions Executive, agreed to help

that year. up Both sides in the cold war

communist Europe, with the help of hagiographies of such men as Nicolae Ceaucescu, Erich Honecker, and Leonid Brezhnev.

Later, he helped to arrange commercial deals and promote bilateral relations be-tween Israel and Russia and Israel and Balkan countries. He is also alleged to have laundered money from arms Claims that the arms sales, from eastern bloc countries, were denied at the time by the then Israeli prime minister. **Yitsak Shamir**

John Major said after Max-well's death in 1991 that the publisher had provided him with "valuable insights" into the attempted coup against Gorbachev in the summer of

After the collapse of communism. Maxwell is believed to have been used by the for-mer Soviet elite, including KGB agents, to shift large sums of money to the west, including Lichtenstein. But it all came to an end on

So, who stole our money?

PENSIONERS/City institutions should have been in the dock, say campaigners

VY NEEDHAM was one of | able to pay our bills or when hundreds of pensioners up and down the country who Maxwell Pensioners chair broke down in tears of disbelief yesterday when they heard the verdict in the Maxwell trial.

Ivy spoke for them all when she said: "When is someone going to tell us who stole our

Now aged 70 and blind, Ms Needham, who received an MBE in the New Year's honours list for her campaigning efforts on behalf of Maxwell pensioners, remains convinced that at least 100 Leeds pensioners died prematurely because Robert Maxwell pillaged their pension fund.

She says: "Now that the trial is over will someone tell me and the spouses of all those pensioners who died who was responsible for what we went through?

"No one can imagine the agony we suffered each month, wondering whether we would know from one week to the

man Ken Trench has called for the early publication of a report into how regulators failed to stop £440 million dis-

appearing from the fund, which should reveal where the blame lay. He admitted that many his 32,000 members would be infuriated by the verdict, but lay the blame firmly at the

door of the City's system of self-regulation. Mr Trench said: "The Maxwell pensions scheme was just another City scandal, but this time it ruined the lives of

thousands of people."
Mirror Group Pensioners
spokesman Don Wood added:
"Robert Maxwell could not have acted alone. We have a right to know. if it wasn't those on trial yesterday, who inflicted mental torment on thousands of pensioners for

The pensioners believe that representatives of a range of by stress and worry.

stood in the dock and faced a | the 32,000 victims to look back

day of reckoning. Mr Trench said: There was a range of degrees of guilt end, Robert Maxwell was the most guilty and at the other the pensioners the most innocent.
"Many pensioners would if the

have been happier if the money collected from the City had been raised through a fine rather than a voluntary contribution. Then we would have a clearer idea where the other degrees of guilt lay." Ms Needham was no great

fan of Robert Maxwell after he made her redundant after 20 years with Petty's Printers in Leeds. She was determined he would not destroy the lives of hundreds of Leeds pensioners.

She attempted many stunts, such as chaining herself to railings outside Parliament in fruitless efforts to speak to the Prime Minister or the Social Security Secretary. One of her Lieutenants died

of a heart attack and the other

from a stroke on the eve of lobbying visits to London deaths, she says, brought on It comes as cold comfort to

on the past four years and reflect that at the end of the day most of the pensions continued to be paid. Thousands of pensioners

nissed out on discretionary increases, and there have been rows over lump sums and additional voluntary contributions. But the spectre of tens of thousands of pensions vanishing, reducing to poverty retired people who like Ms Needham had contributed to schemes for more than 20 years, never materialised. Those coming up to retire-

ment have found their options severely limited as lack of funds has forced trustees to take a harsh view of applications for early retirement or sickness pensions. Payments have been met, though, for those retiring normally. But the Maxwell pensioners

are aware that thousands of workers employed by the army of small companies which collapsed during the recession, did not fare so well. They lost their pensions when the firm went down but lacked the high profile needed to get them back. The Pensions Act should help future



Reduced to tears . . . Ivy Needham asks: "Who was responsible for what we went through?

minimum solvency require- | budsman to sort out probments for schemes, giving lems. trustees greater powers, callng on auditors and actuaries to blow the whistle, and establishing a compensation

But many of the original

proposals were watered down and the pensions industry accepts that the new legislation

bent on fraud. This has been | this was a safer pensions the pensioners' greatest regime. That has not hap-

Mr Trench says: "Very vulnerable people suffered years of turmoil and distress and

pened. When will the Government realise how terribly important pensions are - and

PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

THE MAXWELL VERDICTS 5



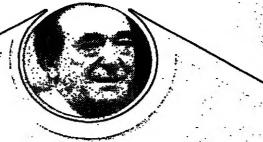




Survivors . . . Ghislaine Maxwell (top) on board the vessel which bore her name addresses the media, while her brother Philip and mother Elizabeth (centre) arrive at a Canary Islands court investigating the death. The trial's third defendant, Larry Trachtenberg (bottom), was

Maxwell's empire

What Robert Maxwell owned when he died - and where it



68% of Maxwell Corporation

- Que (Macmillan Computer Publishing) - sold to Paramount for \$157 million
- Berlitz sold to Fukutake Nov 1991 Panini - stake sold Sep 1992 to

Bain Gallo

- Nimbus Records sold Sep 1992 for £20m to DLJ Merchant Banking
- Maxwell Consumer Publish sold for £5m in 1992 International Learning Systems (Japan) - sold for
- £5m to Falcon Press Official Airline Guides - sold to Reed for \$417m - Sept 1993
- Collier sold to Italians for £29m in Sep 1993 Molecular Design - floated off Autumn 1993, raising \$90m
- Macmillae/McGraw Hill School Publishing to McGraw Hill for \$338m
 - Macmillan Inc bought by Paramount for £383m in November 93

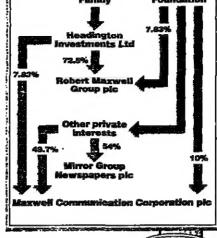
Oct 1993

Private interests

- Maxwell Aviation sold to management for £32.5m. Jan 93 Lady Ghistaine (yacht) - bought by Dr Hanza Elkoley for £9m in
- AGB international sold to Taylor Nelson for £14.5m in Mar 92 Property - various disposals. raising up to £100m
- Maxwell House, Holborn Circus bought by Mirror Group
- The ladependent (6%) 2.3% sold to Cerutti, rest unknow 50% of Thomas Cook America sold to David Paresky in Jan 1993
- Reading FC (stake) sold to John Madejski in 1992 O00,012 to blok - Sold for £10,000
- in May 1992 The European - bought by the Barclay brothers for £2m in Jan 92
- Berliner Zeitung (50%) sold to Gruner & Jahr in Feb 1992
- Modiin (Israeli newspaper) sold to MRT, Israeli publishing group Robert Maxwell Business School
- Management Centre New York Daily News - sold to Mort Zuckerman for £24m, 18

- now the Sofia International

54% stake in Mirror Group Newspapers • 26% Quebecos • 26% Donahue Daily Mirror off on 23 Sunday Mirror Daily Record Sunday People Sporting Life





The things they say

It is our job to conduct a thorough | He was capable of being investigation. This has happened in this case. It is our responsibility to ensure

defendants are fairly prosecuted and that has also happened. The jury considered the matter for many days and have reached their verdict. The criminal justice system has functioned in the way that it is designed to George Staple, director, Serious Fraud Office

He had a commanding presence in a room and, given his weight and bulk, he could dominate, and did dominate, every meeting he attended Kevin Maxwell on his father extremely charming to people, he was capable of winning but he was also capable of verbal brutality in meetings, public dressing-downs not only of his children but also his senior

Fine, the law is the law, but I'll stretch it Kevin again

We do not say Robert Maxwell was an heroic figure. Far from it Alun Jones QC, for Kevin

ian Maxwell fully understands the need for a public catharsis, a

than anybody, has been waiting for today and the evidence Edmund Lawson QC, for lan Maxwell, who did not give evidence

public examination . . . He, more

They said they couldn't stop the wheels of business . . . they didn't give a stuff about my father Kevin on demands for money from US investment bankers Lehman Brothers shortly after Robert Maxwell's death

Something you've heard in this case is that these boys worked hard, did they not? It was not all caviar, it was not all luxury, it was Edmund Lawson QC

Now wrangling starts over SFO and juries

THE SYSTEM/Labour seeks inquiry while lawyers say lessons of past failures were applied to the latest trial

HE Maxwell acquittals have renewed debate over the ability of the Serious Fraud Office to secure convictions in high profile trials involving compli-cated alleged financial frauds. They also reignited concerns over the use of juries for such

complex cases.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, said: "It is time urgently to examine the way we prosecute compli-cated City crimes, and the role of the SFO." He suggested an inquiry to find out what the SFO's problems, if any, were. Difficulties might include lack of funding, poor quality of staff, or overwork.

"But at the end of the day it's up to the jury." he said.
City regulators — who can refer cases involving criminal charges to the SFO - declined to comment specifi-cally on its effectiveness. It is understood that several would like to see alternatives to the SFO in, for instance, more technical cases involving insider dealing.

Leading fraud lawyers said yesterday's outcome in no way strengthened the case for removing juries from serious traud trials.

The case had been a model of how such cases should be conducted. The judge, Lord Justice Phillips, who also pre-sided over the Barlow Clowes trial, was chosen for his experience and ability in case

The prosecution kept the indictments simple. Prosecution and defence QCs were all expert in commercial fraud. The jury's lengthy deliberations showed they took their responsibilities seriously,

lawyers said.

lawyers said.

Michael Kalisher, a senior QC who prosecutes and defends in fraud cases, said:

"They had very good teams on both sides, they had about the best trial judge in the country, they had all the best technological aids, and there were only two counts. It's difwere only two counts. It's dif-ficult to see how they could have improved on the trial.

The fact that there has been an acquittal doesn't mean

result, and it has been a very expensive exercise."

Mr Kalisher backed a proposal by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in 1993 for research into how ju-ries work "so judges and bar-risters would be better able to

help them".
The Committee on Long
Fraud Trials, under Lord Roskill, recommended in 1986 that juries should no longer decide guilt or innocence in such cases. Instead a judge should sit with expert asses-

sors, such as accountants.

Pressure for implements. tion grew in the early 1990s with acquittals in several long trials, including Blue Arrow in 1992. The Appeal Court's criticism of the lengthy indictment in that case is seen as a turning point. It led prosecutors to trim the number of charges, simplifying cases for juries. The trend to split cases into more than one trial — as in

the Maxwell and Guinness cases — has also shortened trials and helped juries cope Anthony Burton, a solicitor specialising in fraud cases, said: "In recent years where trials have been well managed, juries have shown

capable of understanding the issues and coming to the cor-"What is significant is the manageability. We have moved away from overloaded indictments. The prosecution

is responsible to some extent in deciding it prefers to have a manageable indictment rather than throwing everything at the defendant. "I'm strongly in favour of juries in serious fraud trials. Providing the bench, prosecu-

tion and defence barristers are of sufficient seniority, it remains appropriate for juries to decide the issues." Anthony Scrivener QC, who represented Asil Nadir on fraud charges before the tycoon fled to Cyprus, said: "I don't like the idea that be-

cause men get off, that dis-credits the jury. I would say it vindicates the system. It says anything has gone wrong.
"The real concern is that it took seven months to get a conclusion."

yesterday acquitted of fraud out from beyond his watery grave

Bonfire Night 1991, when a | up, with his arms and legs | father, like many men who | sible once he was dead. The | tion in a Nazi death camp was stummed world learned of Rob | splayed, his body had | travelled on board the yacht, | dam had burst and a wave of | shown to have been bogus: he ert Maxwell's death at sea. Suggestions as to how he met his end were as lurid as the tales surrounding his life. Of his death, this much is

known. Maxwell flew from time of two to three days taken by victims of drowning to come to the surface.

Theories about the cause of 1991, sailing to Madeira, before cruising around the Cafore cruising around the Canaries. He was last seen alive at 4.25am on Tuesday, November 5, when a crew member saw him strolling on the deck.
At 4.45, he called to ask for the air conditioning to be-

turned down.
At 11am a call from New York was put through, but when no reply was received, the ship's captain, Gus Rankin, went to Maxwell's cabin to check if he was there. On discovering that Maxwell was missing, Rankin organised a thorough check of the boat, said he doubted whether Maxwell was thorough check of the boat, said he doubted whether Maxwell's said he doubted whether Maxwell had followed the followed had fol and following a third fruitless search, he raised the alarm. Maxwell's naked body was found floating off Gran Cana-ria by a rescue helicopter at Maxwell put forward another his lifetime made a cool as-5.55pm that day. Lying face theory. He said that his sessment of his legacy impos- well's" supposed incarcera-

seven children inherited the disgraced tycoon's

business acumen, it was the

youngest son, Kevin. This

won him no special protec-tion from his father's bully-ing. For all the indignities

heaped on him, Kevin was al-

ways regarded as the natural

He held the grandiose title

of chief executive of Maxwell

Communication Corporation, but was kept on a short rein

by his father, who typically spoke to him on the phone up

Having been posted to the US, Kevin was called back to

London at his father's whim

and at one stage was making

at least two return journeys

across the Atlantic every

After Robert's death Kevin-

emerged as the most capable

of the two brothers employed

as directors in the Maxwell

to 20 times a day.

apparently suffered no damage from the boat's propellers. It had resurfaced after only 13 hours in the water, at most, compared with the average

local judge, Luis Gutierrez, first telling reporters that Maxwell was dead when he fell into the sea, probably dying from a heart attack. A subsequent report for Maxwell's loss adjusters pre-pared by Dr Iain West, head of forensic medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, suggested the tycoon had killed himself. Another theory discounted by

leaning "well over the side".

his father's creditors

creditors were impressed at

The company may have been turning belly-up but, even in the darkest hours, Kevin rarely lost his cool.

Outside work, Kevin is a far less relaxed character — as

demonstrated by his angry outbursts during his cross ex-

amination in court.
Sent to boarding school at

the age of seven, he is de-scribed by former colleagues as the "typical buttoned-up product of a public school

He appears to have few friends or outside interests

but enjoys a strong marriage

with his wife, Pandora. The

couple were forced to sell

their f1 million-plus neo-

Georgian home in Chelsea

and a converted barn near

Ipsden, Oxfordshire, after his

In-laws have helped Kevin | to offer him a job.

education".

father's death.

his financial expertise

KEVIN/After father's death, youngest

son emerged as most capable of brothers

FANY of Robert Maxwell's | empire. Even his father's

middle of the night. said he doubted whether Max-well had fallen into the sea ac-

had been in the habit of uri-nating over the side of the vessel in the middle of the night. He cited evidence from Dr Jane Ward, a lecturer in physiology at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals, who quoted a study showing 40 out of 200 men had been found to experience loss of consciousness after urinating in the

and family maintain an upper middle-class lifestyle by buy-ing them the 16-bedroom Moulsford Manor, a sixteenth

century manor house set in 10 acres on the Berkshire-Oxfordshire borders.

Relatives and godparents

have chipped in to pay school

fees for the couple's three children: Matilda, eight, Ed-

ward, seven, and five-year-old

Not bad for a man who had

built up £406.5 million debts

when he was made Britain's biggest ever bankrupt in

September 1992.
Although the vast majority

earn £20,000-a-year working

Undoubtedly, a financier

difficult persuading anybody

for more than 30 years.

underemployed

The fall-out from his death and from the immediate post-Max-well period hung beavy in the air even as the last summer. Maxwell's manic attempts to control com-ment about cidentally, unless he had been



public loathing drowned his and his family's reputations. ber 1991, nothing was considered over the top. As the press declared him possibly the big-gest crook in history, radio and TV pumped out lurid commentaries on the Max-well phenomenon. On June 28, 1992, Radio 4 broadcast

Maxwell: The foul-mouthed, paranoid Robert Maxwell. On January 20, 1993, TV's Inbowed out by arresting an Oxford educational pub-lisher clearly based on Maxwell. Not only was the char-

guard. If the trial served any purpose, it was to shrink Maxwell back to life size; an over-confident 1980s tycoon with insufficient respect for the law or other people's property. He

was not a mass murderer, nor even — on the evidence — a mass swindler. As testimony took the court back to the recessionary days of 1991, Final Days, Maxwell's behaviour seemed starring Alfred uncomfortably close to that of millions across the country albeit on a larger scale. As householders were raiding children's piggy banks and surrendering assurance policies in a frantic attempt to pay spector Morse mortgages and avoid reposses-bowed out by sion, so Maxwell was scooping

had, in fact, been a camp

ted in, perhaps achieved the one thing he had craved since arriving in Britain at the dawn of the last war.

up cash from any source to keep his empire afloat. In those last desperate days, Robert Maxwell, this strange man who had never really fit-

Bullied son impressed A PR man way

LAN/Strain told as he tried to cope with

out of his depth

explaining tangled web of share deals

OU could see the strain growing daily on Ian Maxwell's face as he Indeed, he now seems far struggled to keep up a front as the group's public relations spokesman immediately after spokesman immed his father's death.

lan, now aged 39, lacked the charisma to take on such a high-profile media role, and clearly had little grasp on the events which had led to the Maxwell group's collapse. Ian nominally enjoyed equal seniority with his

of his time has been spent preparing for the trial, both Kevin and his brother Ian younger brother Kevin, as Robert Maxwell had made a point of jointly promoting both sons. Nevertheless, Ian's only real expertise was in the field

for a business consultancy founded by Jean Baddeley, who worked for their father of marketing and he was un-able to cope with the web of share deals set up by his with as much natural talent as Kevin is woefully father But he might find it a little

Although Ian was a director of 200 companies, Robert Maxwell typically treated his son

more comfortable in his present job as a "consultant" for the Westbourne Communications group, where he works with his brother Kevin. Ian may now have to travel steerage, but he still frequently visits the US on business, where he appears to have maintained some of his old His lifestyle has not suf-

fered unduly either, during the long wait for his case to come to court. Ian managed to avoid bankruptcy by raising £500,000 demanded by liquidators. Nevertheless, he and his

American-born wife, Laura, were forced to sell their luxurious Belgravia flat and rent a house in Eaton Terrace. They now live in a three-bedroomed home in the London with contempt, once famously | Borough of Hackney.

Several City reputations, 131 days, £25m, and many 'bundles' later . . .

THE TRIAL/ It was a record, with the jury spending 11 nights in an hotel. Jurors and a QC went ill. And the judge became a Lord

returned to court, the latter did not.

The jury went into the record books, clocking up 11 nights in an hotel, breaking the previous Old Bailey record of eight nights in a case in 1982. Half the jurors had to be examined by a clared unfit for duty at different times.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell were arrested on June 18 1992. Their trial opened a few days short of three years later, and they had to wait a further eight months to hear the judgment of their peers. All the pious hopes expressed by the anti-fraud authorities for speedier, simpler trials nce again came to nothing. The trial was neither

speedy nor simple. Jurors were directed to a mindnumbing array of documents and "bundles", each bearing catalogue numbers as soporific as the droning voices of counsel. Those who had hoped

that the selection of a common-law charge against the defendants would fulfil demands that fraud cases be made intelligible to the average juror would have been sadly disappointed. Only at the very end of the trial did either side seem to come close to the heart of the issue, that of a

"dishonest agreement". among the conspirators. And it seemed to the neutral observer that, by the close of play, the Crown had failed to prove that suggestions that Mr Kevin such an agreement had been struck.

The indictment itself. however, seemed cleverly Maxwell (likely to cut a demonstrated that they Lord Justice Phillips.

T LASTED 131 days, it sympathetic figure as the were unable to pay for their cost perhaps £25 million brother unversed in the own defence.

and, at different times, ways of high finance), was both a QC and a defendant bracketed with Larry money and time, it also Trachtenberg (positioned as a former LSR lecturer to appeal subconsciously to a juror's respect for academe), and Kevin, on a collapsing in court. On July second count of conspiracy 23, the trial was suspended to defraud. This appeared to be the dispensable charge, the first stage of the rocket, which could be lost by the Crown without too

much regret.
And, indeed, neither lan The anti-fraud

authorities' pious hopes of speedier, simpler hearings came to nothing

nor Mr Trachtenberg went into the witness box. In the nose-cone, ever, were Kevin and Rob-ert Maxwell, indicted as coconspirators on the charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Here, the subconscious appeals were all on the Crown's side. Was any Crown's side. Was any juror seriously proposing to acquit Robert Maxwell?

The trial judge did his best to blank the torrent of pre-trial publicity from the minds of the jury members. "The collapse of the Maxwell group... received unprecedented publicity," he declared on Day One. "Much was... unfair."

He went on to highlight one issue raised by the

Maxwell and Mr Ian Max-well should not be receiving legal aid. The cost of this trial will be very high,

Not only did the trial eat money and time, it also took its toll on the health of some participants. In June, Mr Trachtenberg's QC Michael Hill came close to after defendant Robert Bunn - co-indicted on the second charge — was taken ill. On July 27, it emerged he had suffered a heart attack. The jury was relieved of its duty to reach

verdict in his case. Two jurors fell sick. Six in all were examined by a doctor. The case also devoured

reputations. Peter Laister. former chairman of Thorn EMI, was accused of forging a document to save his own skin. Accountants Coopers & Lybrand declared that they found "nothing untoward" in the Maxwell empire and were accused of keeping quiet about Maxwell borrowings in order to keep a valued client. Lloyds Bank con-firmed that, at one point, its Maxwell loans totalled nearly £500 million, almost one quarter of the bank's market value. Lebanese businessman Roger Tamraz, who came to testify that he had been interested in putting together a Middle Eastern syndicate to salvage the Maxwell em-pire, had it put to him by the Crown that he had been accused of involvement in a fraud - and responded that it was an invention of his political enemies in the

Few touched by the trial emerged untainted, but one key player managed to en-hance his standing. At the hearing's opening, the judge had been plain Mr Instice Phillips. By its concrafted to ensure a "result" but that is not the defen-for the prosecution. Ian dants' fault." They had clusion, he had become





Hostel blaze still a mystery as suspects freed

German fire town mourns refugees

ian Travnor in Lübeck

BANDONED, the large white Victorian house stands alone on the Lübeck docks. Until Thursday it was a ghetto for 50 Africans and Arabs seeking Western shelter; now it has become a charnel-house for the foreigners denied integration here.

Priests and prime ministers made their pligrimage to the gutted building yesterday, outraged locals brought flowfriends and relatives of the 10 who died in Thursday's predawn inferno, stood sentinel in snow and sub-zero tem-

peratures, still keening with grief and incomprehension. "We're so shaken, we didn't think anything like this could happen," said Diangano Benkindo, aged 40, who is from Kinshasa and has been in suppose that's what's bound to happen when we have to

suppose that's what's bound to happen when we have to live in places like this."

Several of those who died were from Zaire and had been in Germany for more than five years waiting for their asylum requests to be processed. People like Monique Bunga, aged 25, who jumped to her death clutching her three-year-old daughter, who died in hospital. Or Landu

Makudila, aged 29, from Kinshasa, who died with her four children and stepdaughter.

| ghetto. "Integration, not iso lation," he urged. The cause of the inferno is a Police expect the death toll

to rise, as some people are believed to be buried in inaccessible parts of the building. Yambuta Makele, aged 39, a friend of the Makudilas, is un-sure whether the blaze was murderous arson by white su-

premacist German youths or

ghastly accident. But he knows what ought to be done.
"They treat us like animals. They want to cage us in these places and then forget about us—out of sight, out of mind. All of these hostels must be closed down and we should be given normal flats among

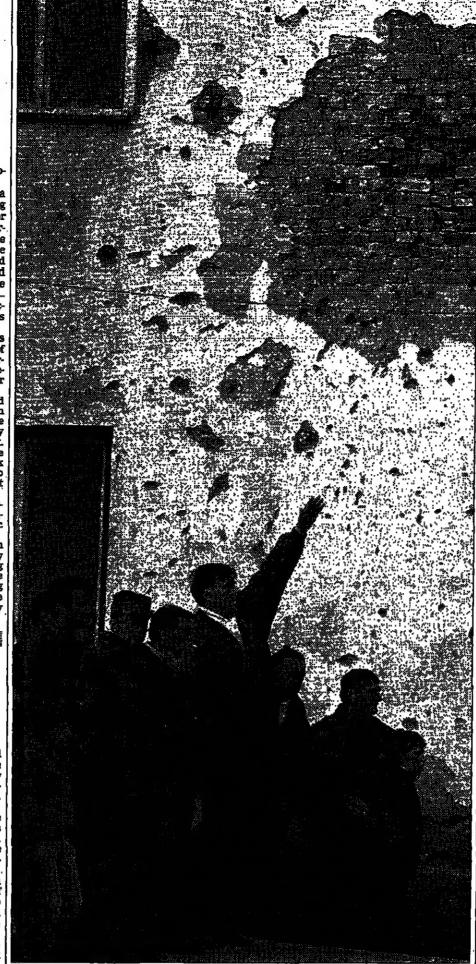
Lübeck, a pretty and pros-perous little Baltic port with a proud trading lineage going back to the medieval Hanse atic League, is in shock. Candlelit vigils mourn the dead. Local radio hosted anguished phone ins about xenophobia and played Afri-

Geneva talks set to secure

lation," he urged. The cause of the inferno is a mystery. After suggesting they had solld grounds for suspicion against three German youths detained near the scene shortly after the fire broke out, the police released the trio yesterday. They said it would be next week before they could tell - if at all whether the blaze was an ac-cident or post-war Germany's

Uncomfortably for officials in Bonn, Lübeck's day of shock coincided with Germany's first government-de-creed day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust. Lübeck's CID chief, Winfried Tabarelli, said there had been no appeals for help from the hostel before the blaze, nor any history of threats against it. But Mr Benkindo said there was a failed petrol bomb attack on the hostel six months ago which the authorities did not

And not all the locals peer ing at the burnt-out dock-lands shell were sympathetic to the plight of the residents.
"Oh, it's probably their own fault," grinned one elderly German, "somebody smoking in bed." The woman beside him nodded before launching into a tirade about "all the criminals" entering Germany



Gorazde greetings . . . A resident of Gorazde waves to a loved one arriving in a convoy of aid and civilians, escorted by Nato, which arrived in the town yesterday. The enclave of Gorazde was besieged by Serbs for more than three years

FIRST OPEN

Bosnian rivals free PoWs as tension eases

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

UNDREDS of Bosnian prisoners of war were eleased by their captors and were waiting to be eunited with their families last night in a general defusion of tension across the country in the run-up to a deadline imposed by the Dayon peace agreemen

As evening fell on Sarajevo irport, trucks escorted by French troops arrived bringing prisoners from jails on both sides of the former front line. The released detainees Red Cross workers on a bull-dozed patch of gravel before being allowed to meet rela-tives who had waited anxiously all afternoon.

But the prisoner handover was delayed last night while government and Serb officials waited with Red Cross workers for other prisoners to arrive from around the country. Over 900 were due to be

ments over the fate of thou-sands of Muslims still missing from nearly four years o war and ethnic cleansing threatened to delay the pris oner release and jeopardise the first big target date set by

But talks yesterday be-tween US and Bosnian gov-ernment officials broke the deadlock, agreeing that more effort would be put into tracing the missing in return for a complete release of the esti-mated 400 Serb prisoners in

Nato's Implementation Force (I-For), which is respon-sible for policing the Dayton plan, reported widespread compliance with other aspects of the deadline.
General Michael Walker,

the commander of Nato ground forces in Bosnia, inspected frontline bunkers around Sarajevo abandoned long before the midnight deadline.

"This is a microcosm of what is happening all along the confrontation line through Bosnia-Herzego-vina," the British general told

I-For troops around the country were patrolling the 600-mile front line, to make sure both sides had with-drawn the 2km (1.25 miles) stipulated by the Dayton

agreement. Nato officials said that a

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with yesterday's deadline could only be made over the next two days. Yesterday 50 heavy weapons were still inside the demilitarised zone, according to the chief Nato spokesman in Sarajevo, Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Rayner. Nato sources said most of the weapons were in the north of the country, in areas

patrolled by US forces. It was unclear whether they would be withdrawn by midnight. Another target set by the Dayton plan was the with-drawal of foreign forces from Bosnian soil, including "mo-jahedin" Muslim volunteers from Afghanistan, Iran and other Islamic states, as well Croatian and Serbian troops.

'Underdogs' promised arms

ation in Bosnia will be given artillery, helicopters and communications equip-ment to help it hold its own against better armed Bosnian Serbs, a US state department official said

Under the Dayton peace accord, the federation can receive light weapons from farch 15 and heavier arms 90 days later. The official said other countries would be asked to underwrite the cost and that the aim was to provide the Muslims and Croats with Nato-style weapons and gear. — AP.

Yesterday, Nato officials said there were still about 100 mojahedin fighters under Bosnian army escort in the west of the country but they expected them to cross the border over the course of the

■ The fate of some 650 Bos nian Muslim detainees at two camps within Serbia proper remains uncertain. A Red Cross spokesman said yester day that "alleged prisoners in Serbia cannot come within the concerns of the Dayton agreement, which applies to the terrain of Bosnia-Herzego

The group falls within the ambit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refu-gees. A UNHCR spokesman said yesterday the 650 were "definitely refugees", while acknowledging that they have no freedom of movement and are in reality "internees

treaty on nuclear test ban There is strong momentum for its signing, | believe an end to testing will remove the cutting edge from

but questions remain about the positions of China and India. Ian Black reports

OZENS of diplomats get down to hard bargain-ing on Monday in the august surroundings of Gene va's Palais des Nations, with an ambitious goal that eluded Kennedy and Khrushchev but finally seems attainable in 1996: a global ban on nuclear

Signing a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT) has been the highest priority cured the indefinite extension of the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) on their terms last

Experts predict that it will be achieved when 38 countries gather at the Conference for Nuclear Disarmament, though there is concern about Indian-led attempts to link the ban to wider efforts towards nuclear disarmament — and uncertainty about whether China will agree to abandon testing.

"There is strong political will," the Polish ambassador to the conference, Ludwik Dembinski, said. "I do believe we will have the treaty this year. I don't see any country willing to take the blame for wrecking the negotiations." Three of the world's five declared nuclear powers, France, the United States and Britain, have publicly backed

News in brief

intensifies

Poland's new president sug-gested opening secret police files yesterday, while ex-presi-dent Lech Walesa denied Rus-

sian newspaper allegations that he had spied for Moscow. While president, Mr Walesa

opposed opening the files and ousted his prime minister who backed the move. "I

regret it was not done," he said yesterday. — AP.

In an effort to weed out trou-

blemakers, Buddhist monks

Friars on file

would mean an end to nuclear explosions of any size and would force scientists to forgo deserts or atolls for computer and laboratory simulation. Russia, currently observing

a testing moratorium, is ex-pected to join them, though some observers foresee difficulties if hawkish trends in Moscow get the upper hand. China is so far the only declared nuclear power with reservations about the scope of the treaty: it conducted two tests last year — one just days the NPT review had ended with pledges of "utmost

restaint" Beijing wants to allow for the continuation of "peaceful" explosions as an alternative to conventional explosives in mining or excavation. Yet no one is sure what position it will adopt. "A lot of their reserve may be tactical," a Western diplomat

Says.

Public anger at tests conducted by China and more especially France in the past year have sustained momentum for a CTBT. Australia is working behind the scenes to produce a draft text by next month — without the present 1,200 bracketed sections indicating disagreements.
Some independent experts

identification cards similar to those already required for all ordinary Thai citizens, it was

reported yesterday. — AP.

Beijing authorities yesterday

released leading dissident Liu Xiaobo, sending him back to his parents' home in north-

east China after more than

seven months in police custo-dy without charge. — Reuter.

Negotiators admitted failure

yesterday after a five-day meeting in Hong Kong to

Marcos millions

Dissident freed

nuclear weapons technology and begin a process of "denu-clearisation by obsolescence". The nuclear powers disagree.

Diplomats worry that time is running out if the CTBT is to be presented, as promised, to the next session of the United Nations General As-

sembly in September. Earlier this month India tried to lead other members of the non-aligned movement to link progress on the test ban to broader progress on "The non-aligned see no

to beat the West rather than a serious business," a British official said. "It is difficult to know whether this is rhetoric

India has always criticised the NPT as nuclear "apart-heid", which allows the nu-clear haves to keep their arsenals, while shutting out the have-nots. But with reports that India may be planning its own test, its principled oppo-sition looks distinctly pragmatic.
"India has pulled back from

the brink because it didn't want to become exposed as opposing the CTET," a leading arms control expert said.
Yet Delhi cannot be ig-

nored: Pakistan will not sign up to a CTBT if India does not, and there is a danger that Arab countries, led by Egypt, might revive the controver-sial issue of Israel's non-adherence to the NPT.

\$475 million (£300 million)

banked in Switzerland by the late Philippines dictator Fer-dinand Marcos. — AP.

Bogotá jailbreak

At least 25 inmates escaped

yesterday from the Bogota prison from which Cali cartel

drug lord José Santacruz Lon-dono escaped last week, local

A woman is suing Nobel

Prize-winning poet and play-wright Derek Walcott, saying he threatened to give her a failing grade unless she had

sex with him while she was a student at Boston Universi-

Steve McQueen the late

American film star was in

fact one of the most illustri-ous sons of Slovakia, accord-

ing to a Slovakian newspaper. The Novy Cas newspaper said

radio said. — Reuter.

Walcott sued

Slovak stars

ty. -- AP.

Serbia 'must help tribunal or face new

John Palmer in Brussels

sanctions'

HE United Nations' chief war crimes prosecutor. Richard Goldstone, said yesterday international sanc-tions might have to be reimposed on former Yugoslavia because of the refusal of Serbia's President Milosevic to co-operate in handing over in-dicted war criminals.

Speaking after a meeting with the secretary-general of Nato, Javier Solana, and the I-For military commander, General George Joulwan, Mr Goldstone said the Belgrade government was withholding all co-operation with the war

crimes investigation.
The International Court of Justice in The Hague has issued arrest warrants for several Bosnian Serb leaders. including Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. who went to ground after the Dayton peace agreement. The UN suspended economic sanctions against Serbia as an in-ducement for Slobodan Milosevic to co-operate to secure a peace settlement in Bosnia. "Unfortunately. I cannot

say that we have ever received or are we receiving the co-operation we are entitled to from the government of Serbia and Montenegro." Mr Goldstone said. "Nothing has changed since

the Dayton agreement even though it commmits the signatories to help detain indicted war criminals and ensure their speedy transfer to the international court in The Hague." He added: "In the case of a persistent refusal to co-oper-

ate by Serbia, this could in-

volve the reimposition of eco-

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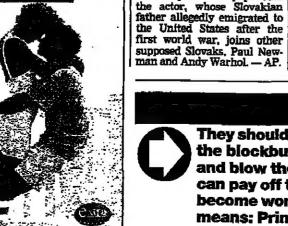
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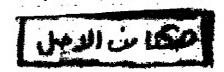
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Past sins at the service of politics

The current investigation of a brutal 1980 military massacre involves as much political reality as a zeal for the truth, writes Andrew Higgins in Kwangju

HE cobbler lay in a forces troops who had been coma for four days, airlifted from Seoul the previous skull cracked by repeated blows with The result of such inquiries

After he regained consciousness, an anxious bureaucrat from the Kwangju municipal martial-law command stopped by to see how he was doing. The official sug-gested a deal: cash in return

Keep quiet, Lee Chong-nam remembers being advised, and he could earn himself a little money. He would also save himself a lot of trouble. Forget the soldiers in camouflage and gas masks who pounced as he cycled back to his shoeshop; Forget how they beat him about the head and shoulder near the Kwangju bus station. Forget bow he was left for dead in a pool of blood.

"The government wanted to bury this whole tragedy just as it buried the bodies," says Mr Lee, still so traumatised he visits three clinics a day for acupuncture, physical lious Cholla region. he visits three clinics a day for acupuncture, physical therapy, physchiatric counselling and a cocktail of West-ern and herbal medicines. He 1980, the day South Korean soldiers first ran amok on the streets of Kwangju.

The experience left him with a phobia of uniforms. At the sight of a policeman, his hands tremble, his head pounds and sweat pours from his brow.

Today, after 16 years and several false-starts, South Korea is trying to confront, explain and — most importantly and dangerously --assign blame for the Kwangju massacre, a piovotal event around which modern poli-

tics in the country revolve. Instead of ordering silence from Mr Lee and other survi-vors of violence that rapidly escalated from club blows to machine-gun fire, officials today invite them to come for ward and tell exactly what they saw when the military moved in to stop student pro-

Escorted by a team of investigators from the state prose-cutor's office in Seoul, Mr Lee recently returned to the scene of the crime, a narrow street lined with shops peddling tumbo television sets, computers and other familiar trophies of Asia's tiger econo-

He pointed out the spot where he won the grim dis-tinction of being the first Kwangju citizen seriously in-

jured at the hands of special-

ous night.
The result of such inquiries heavy clubs, his spine is due to be amounced next stomped by paratrooper week and will almost cer-boots, his left leg gouged by a tainly mean another accusing finger pointed at South Korea's previous two presidents, Chun Doo-hwan, effec-

dents, Chun Doo-hwan, effec-tively in charge of the country in 1980, and his loyal protége, Roh Tae-woo.

Already indicted for pocket-ing bribes worth hundreds of millions of dollars, the two men are likely to be charged with ordering the use of le-thal force in Kwangju. Sev-eral of their military cronies have already been arrested have already been arrested because of their own role.

"They should be sentenced to death under the law, like Ceausescu in Romania," sug-gests Mr Lee, relishing the idea of a summary execution. The death penalty, although possible, is highly unlikely. All the same, the whole ex-ercise carries a subversive

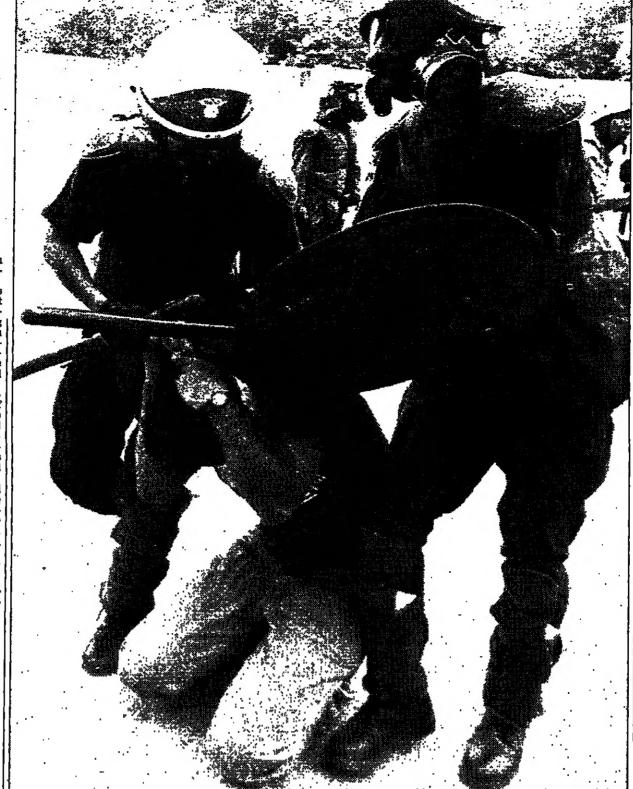
Across Asia, leaders justify

past and present brutality as an unfortunate but unavoidhas not worked since May 18. | able precondition for political stability and economic growth in the decade and a half that followed the bloodshed in Kwangju, South Korea enjoyed an almost un-interrupted economic boom, a model keenly studied and then repeated by China after the Tisnanmen Square mas-

China, Indonesia, Burma or any of the other states seduced by the authoritarian route to prosperity will be less keen to copy South Korea's current experiments. In all such countries, history and its abuse — is rooted in politics, not facts.

At Mangwoldong cemetery, where 125 of those killed in 1980 are buried, dozens of visitors pay their respects. Even coid of an early morning in January does not keep them away. Next to the tombstone of a former student eader a glass box has been filled with old notebooks and other mementos. Recently added to the collection is the front page of a local newspaper. It has a headline few ever expected to see: "Chun Doo-hwan to be arrested"

A nearby souvenir stall sells graphic videos and books filled with pictures of mutilated bodies from 1980, scenes of carnage not seen in the country since the Korean





The old regime came to power with blood on its hands. It was born with an irreparable defect of legitimacy.'



Tough tactics . . . Seoul police selze a student during a protest demanding punishment of those responsible for the Kwangju violence in 1980 (right and top) PHOTOGRAPH: AHN YOUNG JOO

cemetery has been a place of pligrimage for students from across the country. Today, many of the pilgrims are businessmen, professionals and the current investigation even former military officers. Lee Jae-yun, an electronics manufacturer from Seoul. took a taxt out to the graveings. An officer in the South Korean military until 1978, he welcomes efforts to get to the bottom of what happened in

Kwangju — and punish those responsible. "Only Third World countries have mili-tary coups," he sniffs. "I hope we have moved beyond this Across Korea, economic

statistics are no longer accepted as the only valid gauge of political legitimacy. "The old regime had a birth defect," says Bae Ho-hahn, president of the Sejong Institute, a think-tank in Seoul. "It came For years, Mangwoldong to power with blood on its

orders from the Blue House

All the same, it still marks the first serious attempt in the entire region to hold military leaders accountable for their past actions.

The generals who ruled South Korea from a coup d'état in 1961, and through a second coup in 1980, presided over one of the world's fastest-growing economies. A country that ranked alonside Zaire or Sudan at the start of the military's political ascendancy is now on the verge of joining the OECD as a fully paid-up member of the rich

netions' club authority are often seen as the two dominant characteristics These two pillars may not have yet entirely collapsed, but they are crumbling."

The military's explanation | that the US planned, or at that soldiers resorted to force | least connived, in a bloodbath to put down an armed upris-ing orchestrated by North Korea has been ridiculed for

into the killings at Kwangju involves as much politics as zeal for the truth. It is controlled by the prosecutor's the country's presidential mansion and source of all real decision-making power. It is far from the independent enquiry demanded by groups of victims, associations for the bereaved and various other organisations set up since 1980 to judge facts and respon-sibility.

However, such wealth and dynamism planted the seeds of autocracy's destruction. "Confucian influence is on the de-cline," says Dr Bae. "Rigid hi-erarchies and deference to of Korean confucianism.

years. But, with most of the country's ruling elite tainted either by association or direct

involvement, authorities

Mr Chun: in charge in 1980

ing too deeply into what happened, just as the Chinese Communist party cannot afford any debate on the killings around Tiananmen

Until now the most comprehensive survey of the Kwangiu massacre was an internal report commissioned by the United States, which still keeps 37,000 troops in South Korea and shares over-all command of all troops south of the demilitarised frontier with the north. It has been an article of

in which, officially, about 200
people died. Alternative estimates reach up to 10 times
that. The then US president, Ronald Reagan, gave a warm welcome to Mr Chun at the White House less than a year

The inquiries will almost certainly point an accusing finger at the previous presidents, Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-

WOO

is no evidence to support claims of direct US Scores of witnesses and vic-

tims have come forward to talk to prosecutors in Kwangju. A woman took them to the intersection where a bus she was riding had come under army fire. She was the sole survivor. Recalling the traums sent her into shock. She is now in hospital recovering.

A former student told how

troops used flame-flowers as well as heavy machine guns faith among student radicals | against the city's citizens.

Most in Kwangju seem to selves wrestling with their savour the humiliation of Mr convictions over the death Chun and Mr Roh, but there is little jubilation. "They; should have been

brought to court 15 years ago," says Lee Se-yung, who was shot twice through the



Mr Roh: loyal protégé

the provincial government building on May 21, 1980. "Tm happy, but also very sad it took so long." There is also deep suspicion

about the motives of Presi-dent Kim Young-sam, who initially opposed any attempt to open the Kwangju case but suddenly changed his mind late last year. The change of heart coincided with signs that he could soon fall victim to his own anti-corruption campaign.

So strong are the cries for vengeance in Kwangju that

Group 'killed

give them, they must repent," says Father Kim Seongnyong, who has long cam-paigned for a full investiga-tion to determine how many abdomen while waving a people died and who gave the order to use lethal force. "What can we do if they refuse to repent? Our ideals and the real world are different." Instead of offering his

penalty. "Before we can for-

excuses, Mr Chun has gone on the attack, appealing to the courts for protection. He has challenged the legality of a so-called special act that paved the way for his prosecution. It extended a 15-year statute of limitations by ruling that the period begins only at the end of his term in office. He reminds President Kim - his main tormentor — of his own past: "If I am a criminal who brought confusion to society, then is it not reasonable that President Kim take responsibility for having come together with such insurrec-tionists."

However, suddenly the old assumptions and alliances have been turned upside down. "We want to cut our-selves off from a history that legitimised military coups and military dictatorships." says Sohn Hak-kyu, a former dissident and Oxford graduate who now sits in parliament for the ruling New Korea Party, and serves as the party's official spokesman. "We need a new history. This means not only defining Kwangju as a democratic movement, but also punish-Catholic priests find them- ing those who suppressed it."

Fears for Tibetan boy

MNESTY International yesterday expressed concern that a six-yearold boy named by the exiled Dalai Lama as Tibetan Buddhism's second most important monk and his family have been missing from their home for eight months and the authorities.

The group said a Tibetan abbot and more than 50 monks and laypersons were still being detained in a bitter row with China over the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama.

Chinese officials have insisted the boy is safe in Tibet, but have declined to give fur-

god-king, identified Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, aged six, as the reincarnation of the Pan-chen Lama who died in 1989. Beijing denounced the selec-tion as invalid, and enthroned its own choice, Gyaincain Norbu, also aged six, in November. - Reuter.

Abacha's son' group calling itself the United Front for Nigeria's dents in 1982.—AP. Last May the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's exiled represent opponents of the country's military ruler, Gen-

> Kano on Wednesday that killed his oldest son, Ibrahim, and 13 other people.
> There was no way to verify the authenticity of its claim, which was sent to journalists Pro-democracy groups de-nounced the idea of using

violence to remove Gen Aba-Papua deadline

The Indonesian military has given guerrillas of the sepa-ratist Free Papua Movement who are holding four British hostages in the province of Irian Jaya "until the end of the week" to free them before it considers other options. The Britons are among 14 people who have been held captive for 12 days, writes John Aglionby in Jakarta.

Officers face trial

In a blow to the powerful Hon-

way for officers to stand trial in a civilian court for the first time. The 10 officers have been accused of abducting, torturing and trying to kill six stu-

Islamist failure

The leader of Turkey's Islameral Sani Abacha, said it had ist Welfare Party, Necmettin caused the plane crash in Erbakan, yesterday gave up his attempt to form a govern-ment after failing to find coalition partners, a party offi-cial said. — Reuter.

Bahrain clashes

Security forces in Bahrain clashed with anti-government Shi'ite Muslims in villages in the west of the country and arrested several people, residents said yesterday. Bah-rain's Shi'tte majority has been demanding the restora-tion of parliament, which was dissolved in 1975. — Reuter.

Wanted: Lazy slob

A Norwegian importation and

distribution company in Sandefjord, south of Oslo, received 130 applications when it advertised a "boring job" for "indolent people with a total lack of service-mindedness" after receiving no responses to its original advert for a hard-working and 986, there very well will be to buy food, medicine and discussions and nobody's other necessities. — Reuter. bers ordered her off. — Reuter. | duran military, the country's for a hard-working and discussions and nobody's other necessities. — Reuter. | bers ordered her off. — Reuter. | supreme court has cleared the friendly salesperson. — AP.

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UN ready for Iraqi talks Feud erupts

THE United Nations going to object to that — providing the context of tros Boutros-Ghali, has told those discussions is clearly Iraq he is prepared to hold talks on a resolution which allows oil to be sold in order to buy food on the understanding that its terms cannot be changed, the president of the Security Council said.

Sir John Weston, Britain's UN ambassador, said: If the name of the game is talking about the impletalking about the implementation of Resolution sell up to £1.2 billion of oil aboard the corrège in Hyder986, there very well will be to buy food, medicine and abad yesterday family mem-

understood by all concerned." He was speaking after Britain, the United States, Russia and France had dis-

cussed with Mr Bontros-Ghali a letter from Iraq saying it would accept an nvitation for talks.

Resolution 986 was dhra Pradesh's chief minister invitation for talks.

at funeral

HE bitter family infighting that cost the job of N.T. Rama Rao, the Indian film-star turned politician, erupted again at his funeral yesterday, when his widow Lakshmi Parvati was ordered to leave the cortege. Rama Rao, who aides said died of a heart attack on

adopted by the Security by his son-in-law last year.

Bank on Easterby to deliver a double

Ron Cox expects retiring trainer to be one jump ahead at Haydock and Kempton

ACECARDS will with a further 10 lengths to never be the same Tartan Tyrant The latter will from the start of next month when the name M H Easterby sadly dis-

Miles Henry, always known as Peter, hands the reins at his Malton stables to his son Tim after a distinguished as the only modern day trainer to send out 1,000 win-

scenes at Great Habton, leaves some highly promising jumpers for his son to be go-ing on with. Two of them, Scotton Banks and Thornton Gate, can show their worth at Haydock and Kempton today. Since a poor first effort of the season at Cheltenham, when he did not travel well, Scotton Banks has gone from

strength to strength. His winning run began with a 30 lengths victory at Haydock and he returns to the course with a major chance in the Peter Marsh

Despite being eased on the run-in, Scotton Banks had 10 lengths to spare over Lo Stre-gone at Wetherby last time, this progressive hurdler, who

be fitter today, but Scotton Banks has been raised just 7lb and remains on a good mark.
Three miles in soft ground
is ideal for the son of Le Moss. However, the combination of

gether different test for Lonesome Glory If he should defy top ners Flat and jumps. weight, this top American fumper will have earned a an active role behind the crack at the Gold Cup. But he was absolutely thrown in at the weights when he beat Egypt Mill Prince over two and a half miles at Sandown. There is no such leniency today off a 17lb higher rating. Smith's Band was all out to

trip, going and the big Hay-dock fences will be an alto-

(1.30), here a fortnight ago and the Easterby camp will know where they stand with Jenny Pitman's runner. Lorcan Wyer, Easterby's first jockey, cannot have found it easy to pass up Scotton Banks in favour of Thornzarote Hurdle at Kempton. There is clearly a fair

beat Toogood To Be True, a stable-mate of Scotton Banks

showed a smart turn of foot to win by five lengths at Haydock last time. Thornton Gate (2.40) is a handy type who should be suited by this course and distance. Successful in last year's

Lanzarote Hurdle, Trying Again (3.40) is steadily gaining in confidence over fences and looks worth following in the Bic Razor Novice Chase. Back at Haydock, Uncle Ernie (3.00) should be hard to beat in the Garswood Handicap Chase. He was well in contention going to the last fence in the Victor Chandler at Ascot last week before

The Haydock Park Cham-pion Hurdle Trial looks tailor-made for a return to form by Mysilv (1.00). Alin top gear, Charles Egerton's mare should avenge a four lengths Ascot defeat by

weakening into fifth. Dropped 5lb, he can make the most of the handicapper's

She is 51b better off now but more importantly is back on a left-hand course and rac-ing on softer ground. She fin-ished fifth behind Alderbrook under similar conditions in last year's Champion Hurdle, when Atours (now 3lb worse) was over seven lengths back in



Trial run . . . Atours faces stiff opposition from Mysilv in today's Haydock Park Champion Hurdle Trial

PHOTOGRAPH: GEORGE SELWYN

Nicholson in Festival mood after easy wins by Zabadi and Castle Sweep

ABADI and Castle Sweep, the former John Oxx immate and after running at Devon he blew as if he had never been beaten in five starts, the five-year-old will probably run in the store of the Cheltenham Festistewards into improvement What's happened here, I don't the Supreme Novices' Hurdle val in March with impressive wins at Kempton yesterday.
The performance by Zabadi, who will now go for the Triumph Hurdle, justified Nicholson's high hopes for "But he was awful at Ascot

TOP FORM TIPS: Thornton Code S. Alberries 7, Solicali 6

know. His Flat form was good and I just couldn't understand

what was going wrong." Castle Sweep landed div-ision two of the Extra Day-

the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Festival.

Karshi ended the Champion Hurdle aspirations of River North by beating that rival by a length and a quarter to initiate a double for Henrietta dies," said owner Peter Savill.

Knight who also struck with Toureen Prince. While Karshi could meet Castle Sweep at Cheltenham River North looks set to return to the Flat. We will have to think very

seriously about whether to persevere with him over hur-

Haydock with TV form

Gologo Soft. + Denotes blinkers. Filograp in brackets often bereit

12.30 PREMIER LONG DISTANCE HURDLE 2- 77 110/L 212,740 SPE12- MUDANIM (340) (CD) C Broad 10-11-10 11/3-22 PUTTY ROAD (35) (EF) D Nicholson 6-11-10 2-13/34 STRAWBERRY ANGEL (36) C Brodu 5-11-5 2-1334 STRAWBERRY ANGEL (26) C Brooks 1-1-5 1411-P BLASARE (30) M Pige 10-1-3 PP4-554 BELVEDBERAN (35) M Morris P-11-3 11P-11 BECTER THRES ANGED (43) C Richards 70-11-3 255G-7 COQUI LANE (10) M/J D m/9-11-3 11110- SERICH CASH (374) K Behey 7-1-3 614/43-3 SENDON CASH (376) CD) J OK 11-11-3 1207-P TAOS (7) N Tuisipa-Davies 5-11-3 08F-00 TOP SPH (3) J Jenkim 7-11-3

FOUNT GUIDE - MUDIANNIE Successful in this race lest year, lest ran in Petruary when led as out out? run-in, loss is by Ner Monour (Aucot Str. Nry). POTITY MONIBLE Newsy chance 3 out, no extra run-in, to 4 by Silver Wedge, with TDP SPN I classes 3 cut, one pack; ill 3rd and BELVEDSHAN (level), led halfway until heated 2 cut, SI

METY AURERIZE Outpacid lose out, railled not-in, stayed on, 171 4th to Price i Formerly top-class adviseg hurder, first run for 18 months has tisse whe out to notwo chase won by 51 Meliton Fairway (Lingfield Sn., thy). Associated for the nonce chase won by St Melton Fairway (Linglis offers 5 out to nonce chase won by St Melton Fairway (Linglis FFER THESE AMERADE In good form alone returning from lejlury or Windy 12 (Chebraham and), Gct). OUR LAMIS Made at , bent Steediest Ette 12 (Celeo 2md, 38), OUR LAMIS Made at , bent Steediest Ette 12 (Celeo 2md, 38),

BBC-1

1.00 HAVDOCK PARK CHAMPION HURBLE TRIAL 2m \$12.000 80-1122 ATOURS (149) (3) D Elswarth 8-17-10 12PG21 PROWELL (249) (3) M Pipe 8-11-7 224601 ARREST WALLEY (2) (3) D M Pipe 8-11-7 139P24- MOORISM (4404) (3) J White 6-11-6 2220F RINK! (M) (6) (5) S Golling 5-11-3 119F-12 MYSELV (35) (0) (8P) C Egentos 8-11-2 TOP FORM TIPE: Mysde 10, Atenn 8

FORMI GUIDDE - PRODUPELLS Lad lined flight, ran on, won by 4 from MYSLV (level), led to lest (Abost Sest). Headway Seq out, nin on, éth of E, bin 351 by Lurge Action (Cheltenbarn 2mt), GC-38). Ad until headed and sel 6 out in race won by Frickley (Wintherby 2m. GC-30). LURY: Takes dramatic map up in class after winning sovies seller al Hottingham (2m, gool radey, bealing Kindshoole S.

BBC-1

1.30 PETER HARSE HANDICAP CHARGE - CIRLETO 21—1111 LONESONE GLORY (SO) (3) C Brooks 6-11—11 12-2111 SCOTTON BARKS (8) (C) (D) M H Essierby 7-PIUI-S ATATAR TYRATOR (8) (CS) (G) (D) Mrs. 1 1300-83 GARRISON SAVARBAN (42) (C) (D) Mrs. 1 Ph. 1 LP-11P SETTIPS BARD (14) (CS) Mrs. 1 Primas 6-13-7 LP-11P SETTIPS BARD (14) (CS) Mrs. 1 Primas 6-13-7 LP-1-1 Mrs. 1 Primas (14) (CS) Mrs. 1 Primas 6-13-7

3m, SQ. QBF-BDh Headway 7 put, led 3 out until app 2 put, 4b pl 7, bin 2550, is Percy Smollent (Ascol Smile The Commission of the Commissi

2.00 BLAN HOVICE CHASE 2m 41 C3,779 THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PRINCIPLE AND ACT STATES AND A Bettleg: 6-5 Bittyggst Gruff, 5-4 Neitthen Lad, 6-1 Even Blue, 10-1 Paracse Boy, 20-1 Chief Reider, 33-

2.30 MONTH WEST RACING CLUB MOVICE HURDLE 2m 41 12,694 FFSS-1U THRUSE PHILLOSOPHERIS (82) (87) TFORSE 7-11-12 BOLD ELECT E Alston 8-11-6 0 0/98 [7 LALDY 664] L Lungo 6-11-6 200-25 MANVEARIS (757) Mrs. C Black 6-11-6 2007-0 HTRE (14) G Jones 8-11-6 2007-0 HTRE (14) G Jones 8-11-6 20-25 MANVEARIS (14) D Nicholson 7-11-6 20-25 MARC OCCURRANCE (14) D Nicholson 7-11-6 20-25 MARC OCCURRANCE (14) D Nicholson 7-11-6 20-25 MARC OCCURRANCE (15) D NICHOLSON (15) D NICHO 82- HARE OCCURANCE (330) R Dickin 5-11-6 000 ASHGAL LADY (2) T Wall 5-11-1 PLANENG NOPE C Parins 6-11-1 46P-40 MERRY NOBLE (49) E Oven 6-11-1 TOP PORM TUPE Rare Occurrence S. Potter's Bay 7. Three Phil Beltileg: 13-8 Three Philosophera, 7-4 Poller's Béy, 7-2 Râre Occurance, 16-1 Sold Elect, 20-1 Merry 25-1 Merry Noelle, Flaming Hope, Give It Leidy

1140-P5 UNICLE EIREE (7) (CD) J FitzGeridd 11-12-0 1121-G* CLAY COUSTY (96) (D) (EF) M Hammond 11-11-12 1111P1- SOUND REVIELLE (210) (D) C Brooks 8-11-12 6867-24 SMITTON LANE (42) (D) C Parker 10-10-13 on 6-4 Lincia Eraia, 2-1 Sound Revallia, 5-2 Clay County, 12-1 Shitton Lane, 50-1 Circulation 3.30 HAYDOCK STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE 2m \$1.878

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12 FURSIET NYOHY (1977) (1987) D ASCHOROS 5-11-15

13 WARRENSTER (1916) L. Lungo 6-11-13

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CAPTAIN CHAOS MAYS B RUMMA 5-11-6

CAUTHER SED B PRINCE 6-11-6

DIAL TURN DE PORTIESE (1995) M POPS 6-11-6

SOUTTON GREEN M M EXEMPTS 5-11-6

2 STALLADARDLE (1995) M POPS 6-11-6

SELLY MODES M M POR 6-11-6

MILLY MALLEY C BROOKS 5-11-7 Ji Deryor
Jir M Rivell
Ji Maccoy (5)
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S Joyana (7)
Ji Marko
D MacCain
Ji Danda
Ji Caberna

 Blinkered for the first time — CATTERICK: 1.15 Flowing River; 1.45 Weave George, LINGFIELD: 3.25 Tafahhus; 4.00 Mac's Taxi. YESTERDAY'S RESULTS PAGE 16

Kempton card with form for the televised races

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0-21 HAURITHIG MUSIC (115) G Heywood 6-11-7

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CAMBIGH WAY (15) M WINKAON 6-11-6

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TOP FORM TIPE: Challegeer Do Loc 9, River Legale 7, Castle Court 6 initiage 8-11 Challenger Da Luc, 9-2 Rever Lossie, 6-1 Fellow Countrymen, 8-1 Castle Court, 9-1 Highland act, 33-7 Corty Special, Solo Geot.

1.55 Sen-Deer 2.25 Princely Sound

52016-0 CASPIAN SELICA (14) (CD) S Keight 8-11-7 _ - 53123- FATHER DAN (80) (C) Mes Gay Keiseusy 7-11-7 (3123)- GOLD BLADE (127) (C) (D) J Pentro 7-11-7 (0.55C- TOSKANO (114) D Wilsente 4-11-0

5005-20 DOM'T DROP BONESS (7) (CD) D Thom 7-5-9

Miles 3-4 Partitle, 7-2 Alpino Storm, 4-1 Royal Circus, 9-2 Father Dan, 5-1 Gold Blade, 10-1 Don't Drop mbs, Swynbord Flyer.

14 00/0300- **VERMO** (188) K Bishop 9-9-0 TOP FORK TIPS: Pariette & Manton 7, Dan't Dran Sombo &

14 1400-66 SUPERLAD (9) A Hermans 4-8-0 _ TOP FORM TIPS: Sea-Door 9, Little Rear 7, Pageboy 8 lettings 4-1 Sec-Destr. 9-2 Pageboy. 5-1 Little Ibnr. 6-1 Hennah's Usber, Se

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202 IPIN-02 ANGELTS DOUBLE (7) R Suchay 8-11-12

203 310-21 SESAMES SEED (42) Mrs J Cool 8-17-12

204 345-0 POREST PEATURE (1-4) (9) C Wester 8-17-12

205 310-21 ROSINA EAE (8-4) P Wintworth 7-11-5

206 310-21 ROSINA EAE (8-4) P Wintworth 7-11-5

207 2070-5 HIGH GRADE (8) Mrs 3 Wilson 8-17-5

208 P2-9-18 PLUMDER BAY (1-9) (95) N Hooderson 5-17-2

210 3050-6 RANTINE (1-4) M POS 5-17-1

211 21-124 MARKE (25) (88) J Macros 5-17-1

212 13-57-2 JREZSOPH (17) P HODDS 5-0-15

213 13-25-2 KIRONS GROSS (44) A Wilson 7-10-12

214 5P-154 SQUIRE YORK (35) P Morphy 8-10-11

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3 RP-9-801 METHERBY SARD (28) (20) B WASHINGO 8-13-8

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4 25-230 PRINCE VAZA (46) J Curtus 9-11-6 A 3 Smith
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8 J4459-28 SAVARD BAY (16) (CD) G Barnett 12-10-0 B Bytto 4

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Cantona ready to blossom again

Ferguson sees the end of a 'flat spell' in sight

mills grinding again in Manchester this week. Spotted within the precincts of Old Trafford,

Cantona?

Behind the story lay the popular analysis of Cantona's current state of mind, almost exactly a year after he launched himself over the barricades at Matthew Sim-mons, a 20-year-old doubleglazing fitter, and suffered the

Etienne Chatiliez's Le Bonheur Est Dans Le Pré, nomi-nated this week for a César in the French Oscar awards — and waiting for his wife to deliver their second child, Cantona rejected Moratti's persistent offers of a £4 million contract in favour of a new £3 million three-year deal to stay at Manchester United. But the sight of the Italians this week encouraged the belief that he was reconsidering.

Perhaps, disappointed by Ferguson's failure to make big-name signings to replace the departed Mark Hughes, Andrei Kanchelskis and Paul Ince, disenchanted by the inability of Andy Cole to justify his billing and disappointed by the refusal of the French manager Almé Jacquet to restore him to the national squad. Captona had at last decided to give in to Moratti's quishing their Frenchman, the story went, United would receive not only Ince but enough surplus cash to buy Zvonimir Boban from AC

Like the rumours that surfaced last August, when Cantona's flight to Paris compelled Ferguson to undertake an emergency rescue mission, this seemed superficially bland, fulfilling Ferguson's plausible in several respects. Ince's valiant display in would inevitably be followed what's happened to him has front of Inter's back four last by a dip in form before he been the kind of experience Sunday was not only a key to their 2-0 victory over Roma but just the sort of perfor-mance that United's injury-plagued defence has needed this season.

Boban, never a fixture in sterdam produced agree-Davids, Michael Reiziger and Patrick Kluivert, giving Fabio Capello's squad an unally. There've been periods

ها د مید سرنهیری Security 2

Carlos Maria

parties of the same of the sam

United would require.

And the view of the Frenchwhat could they be but representatives of Internazionale, sent from Milan by their ambitious president, Massimo Moratti, to cut a deal with Alex Ferguson over Eric sert him into the national seam in time for the European Championship. And Inter's £4 million was still quite a lot more than United's £3

thropes who would like to see the back of Cantona, the halfconsequence of an eightmonth ban from the game.

During his suspension, in between inaugurating his screen-acting career — in according to Ferguson, according to Ferguson, merely a visiting film crew.
"No," the manager said yes-

> 'Maybe some good has come of it. Perhaps his attitude to injustice has been altered'

terday, 'Inter haven't been back." And he firmly dis-missed the idea of Ince's

Still, United's fans may be thought to have legitimate form since he returned to action in October. A goal-making pass after only 67 seconds of his first match, at home to Liverpool, fulfilled Ferguson's prediction that adrenalin would initially help performances have alternated the inspirational with the by a dip in form before he reaccustomed himself to the rhythm of the English season.

Tuesday night's FA Cup replay at Roker Park, for ex-ample, found him becalmed, apparently unable to exert the influence that allowed United the Milan side, has seemed an even more marginal figure games in which he took part since a new-year raid on Ambedore the incident in South London last January 25 ments for the transfers of removed him from the squad. three Ajax players, Edgar "Yes, we've had the dip,"

ALF a dozen men in Italian overcoats had the rumour mills grinding again in Manches-geek. Spotted within least of Cold Trackard and the require.

And the require.

And the require.

And the require.

And the require of the French.

when you're judging a player, there's a difference between a bad game and a flat game."

United began the Roker game on Tuesday with five men at the back. "The way we played in the first half didn't cut him." suit him," Ferguson said, but even the rearranged formation after the interval failed to provide him with the right platform and the last-gasp winner came, unusually,

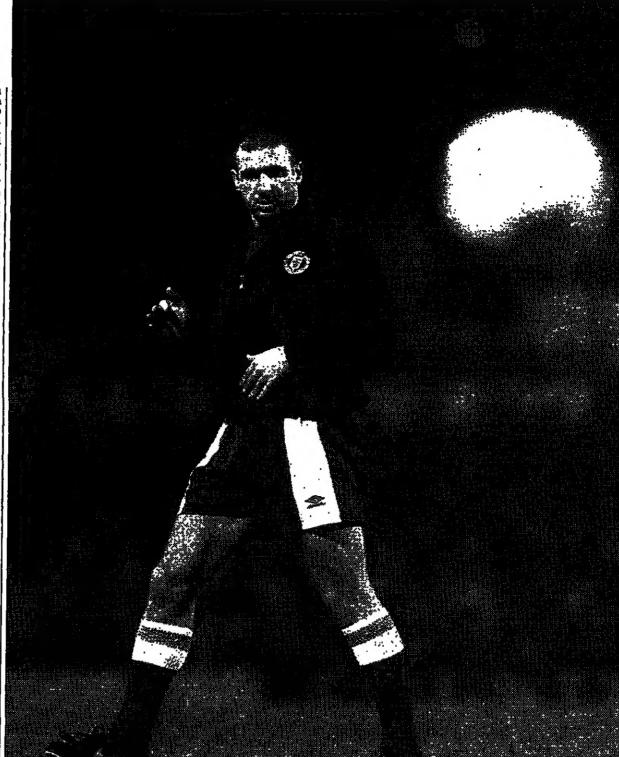
from another source. Ferguson admitted the summer's departures, notably the absence of Kanchelskis from the right wing, had cre-ated lingering problems. "I haven't asked Eric to do anything different at all. The es-sence of his game is about movement, about causing problems by floating into spaces where defenders can't

"He still does that. No problem at all there. But we've got to get back to playing with two wide men. We've tried one or two different things to give us penetration on the right-hand side. We played Eric with Paul Scholes and Andy Cole for a while, which wasn't such a problem in away games but didn't work at home. It all got too conested. There was no stretch. no switching of play, so it was very hard to break teams

"Les Sharpe hasn't had a great season, although he's coming back to form now. Ryan Giggs has been tremennure into a great player. But it's been hard to find the right formation. Up to December we played excellent stuff but then we started to get injuries and we lost key defenders and him overcome his lack of the whole team's form frag-match practice. The next fix-ture was a disastrous 3-1 de-to pick a settled back four again soon, which will help everybody.

Ferguson has seen changes in Cantona over the past year. "He's always been a quiet perthat can't help but have an effect on your life.

"They say even a bad experience can be good for you, and maybe some good has come out of it. Perhaps his attitude to injustice has been altered. Since he came back into the team there have been refereeing decisions that he hasn't agreed with but he's chosen not to argue. I've seen him walk quietly away from inci-dents that might have drawn a different reaction before."



Becalmed at Roker . . . the new-look Cantons in Tuesday's FA Cup replay when he failed to impose himself MICHAEL STEELE

warned him that he could exwarned him that he could expect to find defenders trying to test his psychological resolva. "But they've been terrific," he said yesterday. "Nobody's tried anything. Even at Chelsea and Leeds, no problem. The fans he can handle. He expects that But the nice surprise has been the

have included the attitude of less, who've treated him fairly although for the manager to son said. "Jacquet came to his opponents. Before Can and generally haven't tried to restore his former captain (or the Villa game and they went tona's return Ferguson make a name for themselves. his other out-of-favour stars, to a hotel afterwards for a In fact there was one who did something unusual. He made a decision Eric didn't like but, when play stopped again, he quietly took him aside and ex-

That impressed me."

Jacquet indicated this week that Cantona will return to

Ginola and Papin) to the starting line-up would mean displacing two young forwards, Djorkaeff and Zidane, who have been prominent in the recent revival of a team that had been playing with a rather wan air under Can-

chat. Eric seemed to be satis-fied with what he had to say." Cantona's "flat" days, he thinks, will be over in a month or so. "He's been magnificent in training, just like he always has, ever since he dents that might have drawn a handle. He expects that. But that Cantona will return to tona's captaincy.

the nice surprise has been the other encouraging signs other players. And the refer-the European Championship, badly to get back in," Fergular form will be back, too." for him. But when he gets his

Mick McCarthy, who has

Justice turns a deaf ear

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

OBBIE EARLE has had plenty of harsh words to say about the unfairness of his dismissal last weekend. He could also be excused a verbal volley at what has occurred since then, events which prove that justice is which prove that justice is not only blind but deaf too.

Earle's alleged trans-gression was to burl foul and abusive language at the referee during Wimble-don's game with Bolton. "I would not want to repeat what he said," said the redfaced man in green, Mike Reed. But Earle, said by his team-mates to be an "hon-est bloke", protests that he did not say what the referee claims he said but was just politely inquiring about a

two other players were sent off in controversial circumelbowed his chances of a dream return to Elland who put his foot in it at

Everton.
Like Earle both Chapman and Hughes proclaimed their innocence. Chapman claimed there was no intent behind his red-card chal-lenge on West Ham's Mark Rieper and Hughes said he was merely trying to step over David Unsworth and stamping on the Everton

But this is where modern technology sticks the boot into Earle and brandishes a application of justice. For while Chapman and Hughes backed their ap-peals with video replays— and yesterday Ginola got Earle could not, short of employing a lip reader. A being heard to be done.

could have chosen his words more carefully when explaining club policy on indiscipline. If anyone is formd smilty. will step on them".

URTHER to last week's item on coats, Phil Domingo of Northampton writes to suggest a few ton-holed to play in a Coates team: Coton, Parker, Gabbiadini and, dear oh dear, Maconaman. Such a side, he goes on to fantasise, could play in the Trouser Cup, played of course over two legs. But would anyone turn-up?

A PPARENTLY Fergie is a lot less worried about overspending since Andy started scoring again.

DO THOSE Italian players fancy themselves or what? All flash football, pose and agonised plead-ings to the referee that would not look out of place in front of a firing squad. Well, they had better

make the best of it while they can. According to an item on Channel 4 news the birth rate in Italy is declining fast as families look to tighten their purse strings. In fact the drop-off in births has been so dramatic that one expert has con-cluded that, if the present rate of decline continues, there will actually be no Italians left in 200 years time. So you heard it here first: Italy will not qualify for the 2198 World Cup (spotted by Barry Cotgrave of Sidmouth).

OHN MAJOR of Jarrow has heard all the jokes. Friends have made fun of him, wary teachers threat-ened him with detention, potential employers thrown away his job applications. And all because they do not believe be is who he says he is. This John is 17 and from

Jarrow, not 52 and from Downing Street. But he does get into just as many scrapes, especially when playing football. In one game for Burnopfield Intergate in the Tyneside Combi-John over and asked his name. "He thought I was taking the mickey," says John. "He said if I didn't give my real name he would send me off. It was only when some other players assured him it was my real name that he let me off." No wonder John prefers to be called Johnny.

tle. "Cantona scores as Sunderland threaten to pull off

Ginola cleared by video EC threatens

Arsenal has been wiped from his disciplinary record after the referee Gerald Ashby admitted he made a mistake.

cial contacted the Football Association to clear Ginola after watching the incident on video. Yesterday an FA spokesman commended Ashby's "honest and unsolicited reappraisal" of the incident. His change of heart does not affect Ginola's later dismissal for raising a retaliatory elbow at Lee Dixon. Lee Chapman also called on video evidence to clear his

name but after studying a

recording yesterday the FA dismissed his appeal against his sending-off for illegal use of the elbow last Saturday. He now faces a three-match ban. Middlesbrough look likely to lose the services of Junmho — already out of today's charged with failing to congame at Southampton with a trol their supporters.

Scottish preview

AVID GINOLA's booking for diving in the Coca-Cola Cup tie at pects to contact Bryan Robson next week with a request for Juninho's services in an Olympic qualifying tournament in South America. Zagalo wants his squad to report two weeks before the three-week competi-tion starts on February 18.

"I am in a no-win situa-tion," said Juninho yester-day. "I want to play for Mid-dlesbrough and Brazil but I can't do both. Zagalo will be talking to me next week." Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager, has given the club's board a list of four players he wants to buy. He will not name them publicly but they may include Paul Ince and

Alan Stubbs. Birmingham must appear before the FA on February 2 to answer charges over the crowd trouble during and after their home League game with Millwall. They were

Carlisle's chairman Michael Knighton plans to raise \$4 million by selling the club to the fans. Knighton, whose scheme would make United Britain's first co-operative football club, believes 2,500 supporters would pay £7 a week to buy up a 51 per cent controlling stake.

Bobby Gould, who pipped Brian Flynn to the job of Wales manager last August, yesterday dismissed the Wrexham boss from his parttime position in charge of the Wales Under-21 team. Joey Jones, Flynn's assistant, has

"It's beyond anybody to have to try to do two jobs," said Gould. "When it comes to Nations' Cup with a 2-1 vic-tory over Tunisia in Port Elizabeth.

push and shove the club will always come first." • The Leeds striker Tony Yeboah set up the first goal as Ghana booked a place in the quarter finals of the African

No Gazza for Rangers, no Thom for Celtic

Patrick Glenn

A T a time when the slight-est lapse in concentration could cost the league championship Rangers and Celtic are showing the fearsome focus of

a laser beam. With the Ibrox side only two points ahead, every out-ing which precedes their pri-vate showdown at Ibrox on March 17 should, by rights, cause players constricted

throats and sweaty palms. Yet the evidence suggests that the Old Firm players are untouched by the anxieties that beset their fans every time an opponent crosses the half-way line. In Celtic's case

even falling behind has proved to be of little concern.

Rangers have gone 20 games without defeat and their rivals 18, a remarkable record to be achieved in tandem. In any other season either run might well have sufficed to clinch the Premier Division title sheady.

Rangers are at home to the strength of the probable absence with back strain of Andreas Thom, the German forward who has brought order, style and menace to his resurgent may also "do one or two wee things to freshen us up".

Rangers are at home to the probable absence with back strain of Andreas Thom, the German forward who has brought order, style and menace to his resurgent with the probable absence with back strain of Andreas Thom, the German forward who has brought order, style and menace to his resurgent with back strain of Andreas Thom, the German forward who has brought order, style and menace to his resurgent with a probable absence.

Division title already.
But Celtic might have trouble today at Kilmarnock's Rugby Park, where their last, goalless, visit was one of only two draws they have played in 12 unbeaten matches away from home. Kilmarnock led 2-0 on their last visit to Parkhead before being overwhelmed and losing 4-2. But the Celtic manager

even falling behind has | fazed by the probable abs

Hearts without Paul Gascoigne, who begins a two-match disciplinary-points suspension. With Ally McCoist feeling a calf injury, Peter van Vossen, the Dutch forward signed from Istanbulspor, may partner Gordon Durie. "We'll see how he is tomorrow," warned Rangers' manager Walter Smith. "He hasn't played since the first Tommy Burns was not even | week in December."

ruling bodies with fines

Julie Wolf in Brussels

HE European Commission yesterday gave Uefa and Fifa six weeks to implement the Bosman ruling or face seven-figure fines.

in a formal warning letter the first step in legal pro-ceedings that can lead to the imposition of fines — the commission said transfer fees for players whose contracts have run out and the so-called three-plus-two nationality rule ran counter to European

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg last year ruled that both practices were illegal, although its judgment affected only transfers from one EU country to another. The court, in a case brought by the Belgian player Jean-Marc Bosman, said the football rules contravened EU guarantees on free movement of workers. Yesterday's letter, however, comes under EU

laws barring practices that hinder competition.

The commission said the football authorities last year sought an exemption from EU competition rules for the transfer system. Given the Bosman ruling, such an ex-emption could not be granted, the commission letter said. In a statement the commis-sion said it also reserved the right to act against transfer payments within national

leagues. The letter was drafted by the EU Competi-tion Commissioner Karel van Miert, who is Belgian. The commission can fine companies up to 10 per cent of their annual turnover for non-compliance with EU competition laws. It is unclear whether the commission will go so far as to impose fines, given that the European Court did not address compe-tition issues in its decision.

Ferguson wins reprieve

Arsenal after a ruling was de-ferred on his challenge to a 12-match Scottish Football Association suspension, from international football if received the dreaded vote of writes Ian Ross.

The Judge, Lord Macfa-dyen, said he was reserving judgment after hearing four play for Scotland again which time's up, on your bike' hours of legal argument from both sides. The result will not is their only potential world-that would solve anything."

A N Other

NOMINALLY high-born this commoner from Con-sett enjoyed a 17-year

career in football which usually found him in the company of sound techni-cians. In old-fashioned terms he was a goalscoring inside-forward with a wing-half's sense of industry. Initially he saw things in black and white, but his best years were spent among county reds and north country clarets be-fore he ended up among tangerines.

Last week: Terry Darracott (Everton, Tulsa, Wrexham).



Performance of the week: Michael Gray (Sunderland), whose creative skills gave Manchester United another fright in the FA Cup.

VERTON's striker Dun- now be known until next class player," said Donachie, himself a former Scottish able for today's game at Everton's assistant man- international. been barracked recently by Millwall fans, yesterday

ager Willie Donachie said yes-terday that Ferguson would seriously consider retiring

from international footoan his appeal is unsuccessful.

"If it goes against him I don't think he would want to play for Scotland again which would he a great shame as he said Mead. "But I don't think that would solve anything."

TEAM SHEET

The Gumers have big problems. They await checks on Dixon (groin), McGowen (call) and Winisrburn (storach upset), and are already missing the injured Platt (thee) and Bould (hamstring) plus the sispended Adams and Kaosen. Linghan and Marshall, in only his that All appearance, will comprise the camer of detence. Ferguson retains his piece in Everton's attack white a judicial review ponders the remainder of his 12-meich ban.

Blackburn v Sheff Wed

Blackbarn could recall their champion-ship-winning captain Sherwood but Wan-hurst and Festion have stomach bugs. Woods gets the Wednesday goalkeeping job again as Presuman is still out with a grole injury.

Hitchcock will not be kept in suspense by Chelsea as the Russian keeper Kharine has been unable to shake oit his groin injury. The central depender Johnsen and middleider Spactmen are included in a 17-men equad. Campbell has recovered from a stight hemstring injury to take his place in an unchanged Forest side.

The veteran poacher Rush is expected to keep the bench warm as Collymore and Fowler continue to lorge a successful partnership in an unchanged span. The ontoan Chapman should recover from a thigh highly but may lose his Leeds place to Deans, who has served his hevernatch suspension. The left-back Derigo (ternstring) and central detender Joheon (high) face tests, while Yeboah Massings and Radebo are on African Nations duty, Palmer and Weithersil are set to continue in central detence, with Worthington, Beesley and Couzens standing by.

Man City v Coventry lan Brightwell is available after a two-match bun and could replace the left-back ingram, who has a harmstring injury. The leenager Phillips is it the equad and may make the full debut. Coventry are hoping their centre-back Rannie passes a leat on a call strain, so that he can take over from the supended Burst.

Memcastie v Bolton

The England midfielder Lee reums for the leaders but their sentre-forward Ferdinand (back) is likely to Joss Howey (hamstring) on the injured list for the top-versus-bottom showdown: Albert and Peacock are expected to comfuse their contra-back partnership. The Finnish striker Pastelainen scored for the reserves in michaeck and is likely to lead Bolton's attack but the tormer Newcaste midfielder Thompson has lost his race to be fif after a double hernia operation. There is no place in the line-up for the on-trial itselfen defander Gambaro.

The Winbledon striker Clarke could lose his place with Hoklaworth and Goodman having recovered from injury and illness respectively, Jones is completing a tourmatch ban and, with Heald and Sepera having these injuries, Sullivan is act to stay in goel. DPR welcome back their mid-fleider Barker after a four-match absence through litness and suspension and he is expected to replace Guasahle or the manager William. Holloway has sinustits and Hateley is likely to be on the beach again.

Villa's leading scorer Yorks is back from international dury with Trialdad and Tobago and certain to play but who makes way for him is not clear. Johnson may be pulled back to play behind the main straiers, with one of the midfield this of Townsend, Craper and Taylor dropping out. The Spurs captain Mabbutt is doubtful with a call injury so Calderwood could return, while the midfielder Howell's is in the squad after recovering from injury.

So THAT was why Eric found the net in the first

S Africa v England: one-day international

England find yet another way to lose

and the optimist's point of view. The pessimist says that England, in losing their penultimate match by 14 runs against a South African side minus their most accomplished bowler (Donald), most attacking batsman (Cullinan) and, much of their innings, ir wicketkeeper (Richard-

Scoreboard

son) and the world's best fielder (Rhodes), have not exactly excelled in going 5-1 down in the seven-match

managing director of South Africa's United Cricket

electricity for the floodlights (the Buffalo bill presumably) it was too lopsided a match for self-respecting buffs to over-enthuse

But any crowd that gains pleasure from Mexican waving at any opportunity while simultaneously raining beer cans down on their own heads does not require a great deal

Around 13,000 people ap-peared to love every minute and in particular they loved Paul Adams. The indiarubber boy, in his second limitedovers international, took three for 26 and with it the Man of the Match award. Until the South African bowlers got the ball in their

The more optimistic stand-

point says that, having screwed up the first round of matches, England have merely been beaten in the first of a new two-match series, the decider of which will take place in Port Elizabeth tomorrow. On a Buffalo Park pitch that has caused Ali Bacher,

Board, to ask for official reports from the captains. umpires and match referee, England, chasing only 130 to win, were dismissed for 115. Neil Fairbrother was the last man out when he was bowled by Richard Snell from the fourth ball of the 44th over. Although the early finish saved on the cost of an hour's



well. Hansie Cronje had won another toss and then seen his side tumbled out by an impressive pace attack inside 42 overs for their lowest total at

England, though, are capable of overcoming any obstacle in the pursuit of de-feat. By the time the teams trooped off to supper (television schedules dictated that the England innings should overs) they had lost Craig White and Robin Smith. When Mike Atherton

edge to a sumptuous delivery from Fanie De Villiers England have been not to Test series and how valuable he could be for South Africa in the World Cup now that his knees are recovered) they had slithered to 19 for three. Dave Richardson's catch made him South Africa's lead-

not make 78 just yet, how-ever: a knock on a finger sent him to join Jonty Rhodes casualty department where an X-ray revealed a fracture. It was the introduction of Adams to the attack that megged and bowled à la brought some real spark to Shane Warne. One over later the proceedings. Graeme Hick and Russell self-destructed (39) and Jack Russell (12) had when he was run outfrom added 56 for the fourth wicket, the highest partner-ship of the game, when in his ing one-day wicketkeeper but, as he has featured in all 77 that they have played, it is second over Hick advanced down the pitch, was beaten by

behind by the deputy keeper Gary Kirsten. Hick laughed at the fun of it all the way back to the dress-ing room. Not so Graham Thorpe who padded up to his first ball only to be nut

> short fine leg. Adams's clutch was complete when he ripped his Chinaman through Dominic Cork's prodding defence. In terms of bounce, pace

Sweden's exploits here

have eclipsed any other visit-

lander's unlikely emergence as champion in 1983, they have added four more titles

and produced four losing

finalists, four semi-finalists.

Far from being bare,

Sweden's cupboard appears to

be better stocked in the early-

20s department than the

Americans'. Nonetheless, as a

sport tennis has slipped in the

Swedish public's affection

from second to around eighth

worthy that it might have all profited. Only Brian Mo-been prepared by Arthur Millan saved South Africa Daley. The white ball — and later the mucky grey one that virtually becomes invisible to 92 halls. spectators — also reverse swung in the breeze spanking

in from the ocean. Batsmen, for once, had bee dealt a duff hand and the England bowlers Martin (two for 23) Cork (two for 22), Gough, who was back to somewhere near his perky best at three for 25, and White, whose two from total embarrassment.

Shaum Pollock has signed a Warwickshire this summer.

 Brian Lara looks certain to be included in the West Indies' 14 man squad for next month's World Cup which is

High-tech takes puck out of

the earth in 40 minutes but

Rupert Murdoch's new ver-

the new high-tech puck will

be seen as a glowing, bright-blue blob on Ameri-

can TV screens for the first

Packed with electronics

and sending out infra-red

beams to sensors around the rink, the puck also

changes colour. When it

tops 50mph the blue blob will grow a red comet's tail.

At over 75 mph the comet's

tail is supposed to turn green. Murdoch's Fox-TV

has not yet worked out

what to do on the rare occa-

sions when the puck tops

100mph but a controlled

explosion on the TV set seems a safe bet.

the sport's basic equipment since 1875, when Boston

University students sliced

the top and bottom off the

ball to create the flattened

For the players and spec-

It is the first change in

time tonight.

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Ice Hockey

Rugby League

The start of the world is nigh

Paul Fitzpatrick on how the clubs await Super League

HE Centenary season testimony to the fact that row and no tears will be shed for it. Not that there would be any time to mourn anyway, as the Challenge Cup starts in earnest next wee

That will be classified as part of the 1996 season. But as clubs fall by the wayside they can then turn their undivided attention to the brave new world of Super League, which opens in March and which represents either the sport's

St Helens signalled their intentions this week by "part-ing company" with their coach Eric ("I was sacked, whatever they say") Hughes. Warrington are another club keen to fill a coaching vacancy quickly. The Australian John Dorahy, who spent a season in charge at Wigan, looks a prime candidate but Clive Griffiths has been on site and in control since the resignation of Brian Johnson.

Saints won few admirers Hughes. According to David Howes, the club's chief executive, he is "one of the nicest men you could ever meet" but that, of course, is no guaran-tee of continued employment. But amid all the worries the anxieties and the scramble for success in Super League there is a sense of op-timism, articulated this week by Brian Smith, head coach and chief executive of Brad-

Supporters' views have never seriously been canswitching to "summer" but the move has been welcomed by most coaches (possibly be-cause many are from overseas) and, it would appear, my departure.

the majority of players. Smith believes that Super League will give other clubs a real chance of catching Wigan. "The Wigan players have been full-time for quite a while and the team is living tant. That is why they are

such a powerhouse side. "Playing one game a week in Super League will see stantunately our competitions have been based on a soccer philosophy: there the best way to prepare is to play but in rugby league it's play, rest and train. If you try to play, play and play you get a dimin

"With time to prepare properly for games it is going to be exciting to see the physical level the players will get to." Many critics expect the Super League to be nothing more than a fancy name for another Wigan-dominated competition. It might prove to be that but the Centenary sea-son, for all its faults, has couragement at London. Leeds, Warrington, Halifax, Sheffield and St Helens. Nor should Paris be dis-

counted. They are at present an unknown quantity but after their final playing trials at Toulouse next week, we could be pleasantly surprised at the quality of the squad Jacques Fouroux and Tas Baiteri have assembled.

The England centre Barrie

Jon Mather is seeking a High Court order to force Wigan to release his registration and clear him to play for Perth Western Reds. In applying for Thursday's hearing in Lon-don Mather said: "It is a restraint of trade and I cannot honour my contract in Australia. I am also taking legal advice to consider suing for libel over interviews given by Wigan to the press regarding

Bulls complaint threatens Edwards' lengthy cup run

Challenge Cup games stands at 42, and their captain and scrum-half Shaun Edwards has played in all of them, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

But Edwards is in danger of missing the 43rd, against Bramley tomorrow week. after being ordered to appear before the disciplinary committee next Thursday.

He was cited after Wednesday's game by Bradford Bulls who were unhappy with two tackles he made on his opposing scrum-half Robbie Paul who scored an early try but did not re-appear after halftime. The RFL decided Edwards had a case to answer. Wigan's run, which began

IGAN's unbeaten run of | with a 2-0 victory over Bradford in 1988, has taken Edwards to eight consecutive finals, all won. He also played as a loser in the 1984 final and a winner in 1985.

Leeds will be without their prop Harvey Howard for the final league match at Wigan tomorrow. His appeal against a two-match suspension failed yesterday. After beating them at Hes-

dingley in November, Leeds have the chance for a rare double over Wigan, but with Howard missing they could have problems up front. Nick Fozzard is absent with a broken jaw and Adrian Morley continues at loose forward in place of the injured Mike

Swedes alive and thriving

David Irvine in Melbourne

N OBITUARY in one daily newspapers, be-moaning the demise of Swedish tennis — this year, of course, marked Stefan Edberg's last appearance here at the Australian Open been premature. Yesterday men's singles.

two of their more promising youngsters, Jonas Bjorkman and Michael Tillstrom, advanced to the last 16 of the

ing a qualifler yesterday -

and then made another

heavy contribution to the

Australian Open swearbox.

The defending champion was fined £660 for swearing

in his third-round victory

Steve Bryan to add to a

two days earlier.
This time the Las Vegan
was cited by the Brazilian

umpire Paolo Pereira for

an audible obscenity in the

£1,000 fine for an obscenity

Agassi advances but picks up

A NDRE AGASSI initially forced errors during his made hard work of beating a qualifier yesterday—and then made another headscarf to protect his

over his fellow American the court gets really

third game of the second set hate about the stickiness of after a couple of close line the surface in blistering

calls on Bryan's serve. heat. But Agassi said: "Tve Agassi himself made 40 un- had no problems."

his second fine for swearing

geously to defeat the 15th seed Todd Martin by 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4. Tillström, a player of im-

mense skill though a martyr to injury, won only two of the first 11 games in his match with Patrick McEnroe but counter-attacked so effectively that he eventually won pleased with a performance

which, at best, could be described only as erratic, yet his nerve was to prove the came. Martin, baving pulled Bjorkman, who lost eight back from 2-4 to 4-4 in the zames in a row to trail 0-2 in fifth, let Bjorkman serve out the final set, recovered coura- the match after dropping his

shaven head in the searing

heat, had no complaints about the Flinders Park

synthetic surface, even if

he conceded "in the heat

tacky".

Thomas Muster twisted an ankle before winning and another seed, Richard Krajicek, defaulted with

back trouble at one set all

yesterday, provoking de-bate about the stickiness of

· A third consecutive five-se match was looming for Tilllead evaporate in the fourth but his greater variety and touch were ultimately too much for McEnroe. An odd statistic showed that each player won 138 points.

be put to the test tomorrow. Bjorkman faces the titleholder Andre Agassi, who was again erratic before coping 4-6, 6-0, 6-2, 6-1 with the qualifier Steve Bryan's challenge. Tillstrom takes on the French champion Thomas Muster, who rebounded from

in the past decade. Players such as Magnus Larsson, Thomas Enqvist both have made the top ten in the past 12 months — Bjorkman and Tillstrom are anxious to rekindle the flame and, judging by their support here, they may be winning. Only the Swedish press seem

To lose one seed through injury might be considered bad luck. To have lost two, which mearly happened yesterday, was planning "to play a lot on the green stuff", specifically debate over the suitability and safety, on hot days, of the

Shortly after Richard Krajlcek, the No. 11, abandoned his attempt to claim a fourth-round place - for the second time in four years — because of a back injury, the No. 3 Muster fell, screaming, after twisting his ankle chasing a wide return. "I wasn't sure how it was going to be when I | 7-5, 6-0 in 58 minutes.

the dark ages after lengthy treatment, "but though it burt for the first few Martin Walker in Washington points, once I kept moving it SHAKESPEARE's Puck Scould put a girdle round

Krajicek was only a point behind when he conceded to the French qualifier Jean-Philippe Fleurian Muster's fall sion glows like a comettoo. Designed to deal with viewcame when his lead over an-other qualifier — Sweden's other qualifier threat. hockey puck moves too fast for the naked eye to follow.

Though Kulti subsequently broke back and had three opportunities to win the tiebreak Muster was at his most deflant, hanging on to win 6-4, 7-6, 6-4. "Actually, after I hurt myself the adrenalin got going and I think I played bet-ter after that."

Muster said the court was very sticky and easy to twist your ankle on". Though Krasurface was responsible, he was the sixth player in the men's draw to have defaulted in the first five days.

Muster, heavily criticised by other top players for not playing Wimbledon last year, announced this summer he South Africa.

All eight women's singles were won in straight sets. Julie Halard-Decugis gave Monica Seles a torrid half-hour leading 4-2 and working the top seed all over the court — but was unable to sustain the pace and won only one of the last 11 games before going out

tators at the stadium the puck will not change in weight or appearance. Close up, though, an array of tiny pinholes can be seen through which the infra-

puck.

red beams beep out 30 pulses each second. These are translated, via fibre op-tics and four \$120,000 computers in a van outside the

rink, into the glowing blue dot that appears on-screen. Murdoch hopes it will protect his \$155 million in-

rights to this sport, which scores much lower ratings than figure-skating. "The world's greatest players and the unveiling

of one of the greatest technological breakthroughs in the history of televised sports," the Fox-TV ads trumpet tonight's all-stars game, which also unveils Murdoch's other new investment, a transparent ice rink with secondary cameras covering the action



Sport in brief

The case of Diane Modahl is likely to be concluded by the end of the month after the Portuguese government rejected a request from the International Amateur Athletic Federation to review the British runner's urine samples. The IAAF said: "If there is no third test, the arbitration hearing will be held early, possibly before the end of January."

Boxing

Drew Docherty fights for the first time since James Mur-ray was killed in their British championship bout when he takes on the holder Daniel Jimenez of Puerto Rico for the WBO bantamweight title in Mansfield tonight. The promoter Frank Warren said: "Drew is going straight in at the deep end. It will be tough for him but everyone in Brit-ish boxing is behind him."

Golf

The favourite Sam Torrance slipped out of contention for the Malaystan Open in Kuala Lumpur after a 76 left him six shots adrift of the American leader Lee Porter. Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke is at Results

Soccer

AFRICAR NATIONS' CUP Port Eliza beth! Group Dr Ghane 2. Turnsat 1 TRAMSFREE Gareth Hall (Chelson to Sunderland) Temperarya Anthony Gran Everion to saindon!: Scott Canham (Wool Ham to Brentfort), Soamus Gheen (Black **Rugby Union** A INTERNATIONALS: France 15, England 25, Ireland 26, Scotland 19, U-21 INTERNATIONALI Ireland 21, Scotland 9

Rugby League STORES CENTENARY CHAMPION-SHIP: Shefield 12 Wigan 20

BOS MOPE CLASSIC (California) Second round (US unless stated), 133 P Grydos 99, 64, 134 M Brooks 69, 68, 8 Karren 66, 68, 135 M Catcavecchia, 67, 68; 69, 66. 136 A Bean 69. 67; P Stewart 71. 65: T Kite 68 CS: B Bryant 71, 65; F Allem

165. T King 68 Ctr B Stryan; 71. 65; F Allem (SA) 68, 69; D Hammond 67, 69, 127 P Jordan 70, 67; J Maggert 69, 68 Allem (SA) 68, 69; D Hammond 67, 69, 127 P Jordan 70, 67; J Maggert 69, 68 Allem 141 S Lylo (GS).

SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN (Cape Youn):
Second reund (SA unless stated), 128 E Es 65, 70, 127 K Stone 67, 70, 129 M Scholz 69, 70, 140 G Darreon (GB) 69, 71; D James 70, 70; 6 Pappes 72, 68; D Howell (GB) 66, 74, 141 P Horgan 8,5) 72, 69; G Levenson 72, 66; A Phis (85) 72, 69; G Levenson 73, 66; A Phis (85) 72, 69; G Levenson 73, 66; A Phis (85) 72, 69; G Levenson 74, 69; M McNutt, (Zare) 71, 71; Leggatt (Cap) 69, 76; R Froema 70, 72

NALAYSIAN OPEN (Kuals Lumpur): Sected round; 140 L Porter (US) 72, 68

141 S Fletch (US) 65, 75; 7442 C Pana (US) 67, 75; K Druce (Aus) 71, 71; D Carlos (Ver) 72, 72, 143 E Fryatt (GB) 73, 70; Wenthworth (US) 71, 72; D Boulet (NK) 72, 71 Also: 146 S Torrance (GB) 75, 70

Tennis Alistralian OPEN (Melbourne) Third rosend: Mees M Chang (US) bi G Racux (Fr) 6-2, 6-2, 7-6, T Mesther (Au) bi N Kulh (Son) 6-4, 7-8, 6-4; M Tähsteam (S-o) bi P McEnroo (US) 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 6-3, 3-9
Flourism (Fr) bi R Krajicok (Noth) 4-6, 6-3
2-2 (rtd), 18 Oxidrustics (SA) bit K Kuzzra
(Slovak) 6-2, 4-6 6-3, 6-0; A Agessi (US)
bit S Bryan (US) 4-6, 6-0 6-2, 6-1, 3
Blockerons (Savo) bi T Martin (US) 6-3, 3-6
6-3, 2-6, 6-4; J Counter (US) bit T Wood-bridge (Aus) 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 3-6 8-6
Women II Bidgled (Fro) bit A Fusai (Fr) 6-2,
6-1; III Seles (US) bit J Haland-Oxcupts (Fr)
7-5 6-0; III J Fernander (US) bit A rendi (US) 6-1, 8-1; S Aggelmann (Bol) bit T
Whetlinger Jaman (US) 6-3, 6-2; B Bidselmi (Arg) bit K Kachwent (Gor) 6-1, 6-2; A
Senscher Wooden (Gor) 6-1, 6-2; A
Senscher Wooden (Japan) bit A Sugiyana (Japan) 6-4, 6-0; C Habbin (US) bit L
Courtots (Bn) 6-0, 6-2

Agassi . . . docked £660

Alpine Skiing

WORLD CUP (Voysonniaz, Switz): Meet's downblik: 1, 8 Kernon (Switz) 2min (3.14900; 2, W Besse (Switz) 2.03 15; 3, D Mahrer (Suntz) 2.03.39. Alect 60 G | 2.06.68 (GB) Overall standings: 1, L phand (Fr) 352pts; 2, G Mader (Aut) 250; 3 P Ortkab (Aut) 239. Aloce 55 G Bell (GB) 6 P Orlikob (Auri) 239. Aloos 55 G Bell (GB) 6 World Cup oversall estandings: 1, L Kyas (Ricr) 955pit; 2, M Von Grubringen (Switz) 595; 3, A Tomba (f) 816 Alacs 129 G Bell (GB) 6. WORLD CUP (Corrina D'Ampazzo, III Kondore (UI) 129 45

Basketball NGA: Toronto 89, Chicago 92; Detroit 100, San Antonio 98, Houston 108, Buston 108, Milleaukee 100, Golden State 96; Vencou-ver 90, Ceveland 98; Sacramento 105, Portland 100. Snooker

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Blackpool), Sinth qualifying recent Q Pown (Sco) bi J Wych (Car) w/o.

MOOGOVERS TOURMAMENT (Wijhaan Zoo Neith) Roused & Jimman (Neith) 0, 8 Tiviaxov (Rus.) 1; L. van Wely (Atelh) % R Hubser (For) & P Leho (Hun) % B Gelland (Bela) % V Topalov (Bul) 1, J Plust (Neith) & V Anand (Ind) 0, 1 Sokolov (Bus) 1, V Ivanchuk (Ukr) %, A Drosv (Rus.) % A

Table Tennis

Editore a Contract
EUROPEAN NATIONS CUP (Bayringh
Germany) Group At Yogozlavia 3, Botglum 1; Franco 3, Russia O Group &r
Seveden 3, England O (English names
Irati A Edin test to P Karlanon 21-12
21-7; J Taylor lock to E Linda 21-11,
21-11, Edon/Taylor fost to Karlanon/
von Solonde 21-11, 21-17 Germany 3,
Austria 1

Hockey

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (Barcelona) Belgium 1, Melayota 3, Spain 3, Belarus 1, Netherlands 5, Canado 1, Greet British 3, Italia 3 Racing KERFTON

1.00 (2m Mdln): 1, KARSHI, J Osborno (5-1), 2, Where North (5-11 Inc), 3, Fell Stanes (35-1) 14 cg. 18 7 (Mh3 H Knight) Yote: \$5 10: £140, £10, £5 50 Dunt F £4 90, Yrio: Ch4 30 CSF: £6 64. 1.30 (2m Mille): 1, ZABADI, A Maguiro (11-1): 2, Oosan Hawk (5-2): 3, Departure (40-1) 3-1 (av Sourceigns Partod 11 ran 11, 4, (D Nicholson) Tols: £6 50, £2 40, £1.40, £16,50 Dual F £9 10 Trio £337 40 CSF £36 77. NP Bido Ost Yime. 2.00 (2m 110 yell Hdle): 1, FLY

USP 128 77. NP Bido Oer Time. 2.00 (3m 110 yds Hdle): 1. FLY GUARD, M Smith (25-1). 2. Flow (4-1): 3. Deven Plight (14-1): 4-1 is 4 (rose): Do-lejti. 10 ran. 20. 30 (# Bebbego) Tote 26.70; IS 10. FLSO, F2.00. Duel F OS SD. Frio E235.50. GSF £110.31. Triceol. F1.355.90

Trio 1235-90. GSF 1710-31. Pricabl. 17.355-90.

2.30 (2am Chit 1, TURE WORT' WART, J Railton (8-4 key; 2, Peansamas (15-2). 2, Leasth (5-1). 8 ran. 4. 6. (R Phillips) Toto C3.70. E1.70. E2.90. E2.90. Dual F- E12.50 CSF. E18-89. Tricast E72.62.

3.00 (3am 110-yab Helle): 1, GREAT EASEBY, P McGrath (7-1). 2, Table The Buckath (5-2 fav). 3, Special Accesseri. (6-1). 12 ran. 8. 9. (N Storry) Total 29.00. E2.90. £1.10. E2.20. Dual F- E11.50 Trio E88.10. CSF E25-31. Tricast C130-58.

3.30 (3am Chit 4, TOURDEEN PRINCE, Mr. J Caulty (5-1). 2, Repeat The Docs (5-1); 3, The White 10-11. 7-4 fav Clever Shopherd 5 ran. 12. 12. (Mrs. H Knight) Total

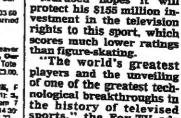
Strice (Sp.) 1 M Adams (Eng) 0 Leaders: Scholor 4, Draw, Hubber, Ivanchek, Tivia-kov 3 Alses Adams 15

CS 80° C1 70° C2.60° Dual F C14-00° CSF C24.27. 4.00° (2m Hdfe): 1, CASTLE SWEEP, A Maguiro 11-2 Livi, 2, Junit 'n Ace (13-2). 3, Mailtre de Munique (12-1). 12 ran. 15 5 (0 Nirtholpan) Toler 21-50° C1 70, C2 80 E2 60 Dual F C4 50° Tro. C12-50° CSF C54 NR Junelo Highway. GUADPOTT C151 40 PLACEPOTI 233 60 JACKPOTT Nt won, C23 606 52° Carried over to Kempton today. SOUTHWELL,

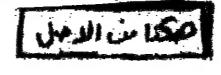
1.40 (70: 1, FLIRTY CERTIC, J Weaver 113-5 lav). 2, Square Deal (2-1); 3, Our Robert (10-1). 11 ran. 5, 6, 18 Bossi Tote C2-50; C1-0, C1-80, L2-70 Dual F C1-00. Tro. C1-60 CSF C5-N4 12-32 (1.10, 1.20, 1.2.70 Dual F 12.00, 170, 116-50 CSF 15-84 2.10 (1.10); 2, No Submination (5-1); 3, Summor Villa [10-1], 6-4 fav Hauwam 7 rds. 18 1.6 Hollinghoad 7 rds. 18 1.2 2.30 CSF 153.23. 2.40 (66); 1, SERPKING DESTRIY, P FESSOY (6-1); 2, Woodmark Weight, 9-4 tos). 3, Kind of Light (8-1), 11 ras. NK 2X (M Chapman) fold 18 1.70, 12 5.50, 12, 10, 12 40 Dual F: 123 90. Troc 125 60 CSF 125 94 Irican 1242.10

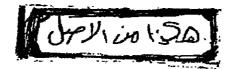
Duai F. 123 90. Tro 125 80 CSF 125 94
Tricast 1142.10
3.10 (1m 47): 1, PREMIER DANCE, A
Machay (7-1): 2, Raistop (7-2): 3, Record
Lover (3)-1): 3-1 124 Multhank, 6 ran 1, E.
(D Haydo Jones) Tote 19 00; 22:50, 11 80,
15:30. Duai F. 10:70 CSF 129 91 Tricast
1280:97
3.40 (1m 37): 1, SMARP CAPELLE, R
Cochrane (12-1): 2, Samel (3-1): 3, Hard
Love (4-1): 5-2 lev Warhurst: 6 ran, Nr. 1X
(B Smarl) Tote. 11:2 30, 12:80, 12:00, 11:30,
Ougl F. 13:80, Tro 11:19 CSF 14:57
4.10 (77): 1, SO AMAZING, J Weaper
(7-2): 2, Confirmer Lady (3-1 law): 3,
Indicators (6-1): 9 ran, 1: 3, (Mass S Hall)
Toto 13:00, 11:50, 11:60, 11:40, Dual F
13:03.1. 198.31. QUADPOT: [18 40 PLACEPOT: [128.70.

England's young table tennis due Androw Edon and Jonathan Taylor were no match for Swedon as they work down 3.0 in their opening oncounter at the European Nations Cup in Bayrouth, Germany, last night. The pair, England's youngest team for 10 yours, were owent aside by the Swedon, whose olde would growter a stern lest for the world changens China.









RUGBY UNION: THE FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

France v England at Parc des Princes

England's will must stifle French élan

Robert Armstrong in Paris on a low-key build-up to a game set to explode today

dent sounds of the philosophical mood that pervaded the England and France training camps on the outskirts of Paris yesterday.

The investigation that France's Ministry of Sport has opened into television contracts negotiated by the French Rugby Federation has given players and officials to digest but, France being France, the bureaucrats are unlikely to drop each other into the merde, publicly at any rate.

Whether England can drop the French side into it at the Parc des Princes remains to be seen but Will Carling's side have conducted a most subdued build-up to a potentially explosive fixture that could decide the destination the Five Nations

Championship. Carling allowed himself an uncharacteristic moment of nostalgia when he referred to Brian Moore, an outspoken critic of the England captain, as "a great player who did many things to wind up the French". Whether England have a personality in the cur-rent side capable of disrupting France on the field is open to question but in Dean Richards they have one on the

Since 1988, when England ost 10–9 a game they should have won, Carling has led his troops to four successive victories in Paris, causing progressive damage to French sang-froid. To maintain that unique sequence of success tin Johnson, Mike Catt and Carling will have to impose

ERHAPS the lingering fog which took the edge off the stri-Andrew - all tormentors of the French - would settle for

> This week the England manager Jack Rowell has pursued the theme of personal responsibility with the squad, often taking a back seat to allow the hard core of senior players — which also includes Martin Bayfield, Rory Underwood and Graham Dawe — to shape tactics and blend in the younger men. Carling's airy suggestion that "playing to the best of your ability might not mean that you win in Paris" can be England's youth brigade have boundless confidence.

Indeed, the verbal fencing in both camps would serve as a preamble to a fresh Treaty of Versailles, the base from which England are plotting France's downfall. Jean-Claude Skrela, France's coach, has been praising Tou-louse as the very model of "total rugby" for the national side to follow when every Frenchman knows that Thierry Lacroix, the Dax fly-half, will kick for position, attempt to force England into error and then alot home his

No doubt the Tricolores will expand the game with their customary élan and give their classy three-quarters their head if they get into a substantial lead and the England pack begin to fragment, as they did against the Spring-

boks in November. Castaignede, at 20 the fiery young bull of French rugby, has the ability to puncture holes in the England defence and fashion the bullets for St

J Sieightholme (Bath) W Carling (Harlequins, capt)

P Grayson (Northempton

G. Rowntree (Laicaster)

M Bayfield (Northampton)

3 J Leonard (Harisquins) 4 M Johnson (Leicester)

S Ojomoh (Beth) L Dallagijo (Wasps)

Catt (Bath)

with precision down the flanks.

It remains to be seen whether England's bushyailed half-backs Dawson and Grayson can improve on their month's victory over Samoa at the expense of the No. 3 rugby nation in the world. England have reason to believe they can win a generous share of line-out ball thanks to Bayfield, Johnson and Clarke, and they also have a strong scrummaging eight. Yet their use of possession has been distinctly patchy

this season. Carling admitted the most important conclusion Eng-land drew from the World Cup was the need for more effective distribution, an aspect of the game that tends to be mediocre in the Courage Leagues, much to the dismay of Rowell. If England hope to exploit the pace of their strike runners, Underwood and the new cap Jon Sleightholme, they must stay on their feet in the tackle, recycle the ball quickly and make their passes stick.

However, it has been a wor-rying week for Rowell regarding the fitness of Clarke, whose abdominal muscle injury could flare up again Bath No. 8's ability to gain 10 to 15 metres with a powerful low drive is a vital part of England's armoury, so much so that the side's attacking op tions would be severely cir-cumscribed if he had to go off. In that event the pressure on the openside Dallaglio to forge good links with the midfield would be doubled.

One suspects that Richards, whose Test career appeared to be over 10 days ago, will get into the action sooner rather than later, possibly at the ex-pense of Ojomoh should the Bath blindside fail to estab-lish his authority by halftime. The qualities that the French most fear in England strength and know-how at close quarters, rock-like composure and an instinctive sense of what happens next . are all embodied in the Leicester policeman who has won 45 caps in 10 years

A kind of cold, disciplined pasaion has propalled Carling's men to seven Champi onship wins over France in seven years with their World. Cup victories split one apiece. led by Clarke, can force their opposite numbers to play the game their way, the door to another famous victory will remain open.

However, allow Roumat, Benazzi, Cahannes and the rest to start rolling forward and it will slam shut with chilling finality. Carne diem must be Carling's calling **Ireland v Scotland** at Lansdowne Road

fan Malin tells why the Scots are heading

for Dublin with more trepidation than usual



14-27 Expert views

France are the have to lose the championship, But England have a strong aquad end written off, Ireland are the cutildem and will be difficult to been at home Scotland will think if they win their home games, Walet must have got some confidence through

Cardiff's showing in

i just hope the atimulates the public as it is often an anticfimax. Players moon to have one professionalism and another on the southern hope the northern serve up something exciting. France should win the Grand Blam If then can sort out their

Facts & figures Number of tries and goals in the last ten seasons Tries

France 101 48 90 France England 114 106 93 귺

The cash players can expect:

Basic £24,000 for squad membership; plue £2,000 for each match started. matches): £36,000. No win bonuse:

Scotland

Retainer of £5,000; £2,500 for Western Samoa Test: £3,000 for each Five Nations match, plus bonus of £5,500 for winning Grand

Contracted players (max 30) £7,500; mutch fee £3,000 for each Five Nations game. Bonus: £500 per draw: £1,000 per win Team regular, including fees for Tests against Fijl and USA, gets

£2,000 for Fili and Italy Tests, plus £300 to beat FIH and £1,000

£15,000 - increasing to £25,000 if Wales win Grand Start.

to beat italy.

France Basic £19,000 plus £1-4,000 per game depending on the outcome

Parc des Princes teams

13

10

FRANCE ny (Colomiera)

de (Toulouse) T Leoroby (Dex) M Perrie (Toulon)

C Califano (Toulouse) O Florement (Dax)
O Marie (Montferrand) L Cabannes (Racing)

F Pelous (Dax)

A International: France 15, England 25

Stimpson & Co build up pressure on their seniors

Chris Howett in Paris

"NGLAND's selectors must be getting more confused by the minute. No sooner do they find replacements for Rob Andrew and the rest of the old guard following last summer's World Cup than they are confronted with an even fresher crop of young

Tim Stimpson accounted for all but three of England A's points last night and looked a full-back of Test potential. But the men who really caught the eye were Phil Greening, the exciting Gloucester hooker, and the loose forwards Martin to distraction in the second Corry and Tony Diprose. Corry was the most impressive of all, turning in a

memorable performance on the blindside flank. It was

that set up the game's only try, the centre Will Greenwood producing an in-spired flick pass to send Stimpson over wide out on

The West Hartlepool fullback converted it, too, and into the bargain. The game, played at the

Jean Bouin stadium in the shadow of Parc des Princes. featured plenty of rough stuff. Garath Archer, the uncompromising Bristol lock, was eventually yel-low-carded for stamping but it was the French front-row who really annoyed the Irish referee Bertie Smith, who penalised them

Their indiscipline under mined a spectacular kicking performance from the blindside flank. It was his 20-metre drive midway through the second half five penalties.

in the 47th minute with a simple kick from inside the French 22, repeated the treatment four minutes

try to give the visitors the lead for the first time. Diprose, in particular, tackled his heart out as the French worked up a head of steam in the final quarter and Stimpson's fifth penal-ty, plus a late dropped goal from the fly-half Alex King, were enough to tie up the

Were enough to the up the SAME.

FRANCE As O Toulows D Veneral, S.
F. Cattise (capit J-) Grance, M. Cafrand, F. Tournaries, Y. Lemeur, F. Boiot, Sowiel, J-P. Veranice, L. Mailler, P. France, C. L. Mailler, P. EMGLAND At T. Stimpson (Wast Harilapool); D. Hopley (Wasps), W. Grassewood (Harilequins), P. Homash (Fariequins), A. Adebago (Batti; A. King (Bristo) University), A. Gommrasil (Wasps); H. Mardwick (Coventry), P. Greening (Gioucester), D. Archor (Bristol), O. Sams (Gioucester), M. Corry (Bristol), A. Diprose (Saracens; Capit), R. Jankins (Hariqquins).

COTLAND have not | Scots to redeem hopeless | lost to Ireland in the | causes, as witness his lastFive Nations Champi | minute winning try in Paris onship for eight last year. He could also kick years, yet their supporters are heading for Dublin this games. Today that responsi-weekend with all the relish of bility falls upon Michael Fergie visiting her bank Dods, a talented player but manager.

Ireland look stronger in the acrum and line-out and have a tion on the left wing.

greater array of match-win-ners behind their pack, while 6-6 draw, was ruined by a the Scots are trying to come gale. It could be an ordeal for to terms with the loss of their loods. Ireland have opted for the

to terms with the loss of their inspirational captain Gavin Hastings. They fear that their no-nonsense Eric Elwood at PG season — that's Post-Ga fly-half to kick their goals vin — may turn out to be an | while Scotland are gambling X-certificate one.

Hastings could inspire the of Gregor Townsend at No. 10.

Lansdowne Road teams

RELAND

J Staples (Harlequins, capt) R Wallace (Garryowen)

K McQuilkin (Bective Rngrs) S Geoghegan (Bath) E Elwood (Lansdowne) C Saverimutto (Sale) N Popplewell (Newcastle) T Kingston (Dolphin)

Five Nations Championship for eight

J Davidson (Dungannon)

D Corkery (Cork Constitution)

ssy (Young Munster) N Francis (Old Belvedere)

G Fulcher (Cork Constitution)

SCOYLAND C Joiner (Melrose) S Hastings (Watson

M Dods (Northampton) G Townsend (Northampton) B Redpath (Melrose)

D Hilton (Bath) K McKenzie (Stirling County) D Weir (Melrose)

S Campbell (Dundee HSFP) I Smith (Gloucester) E Peters (Bath)

Sestiand: K Logan (Stirling County), C Chamners (Melrose), D Patierson (West Harti S Murray (Edinburgh Academicals), P Burnell (London Scottlah), J Hay (Hawicid).

Ireland's caution may be | But tactics aside, the main

have that professiona

reasons that Scotland are approaching the game with such trepidation are their two mos recent results. In November they drew 15-15 with Western Samoa but were outscored 2-0 on tries; and a fortnight ago they were beaten 29-17 by the Italians in Rieti. The Scots fielded virtually a fullstrength side for a fixture they insisted on reducing to "A" status and Italy made

them pay for the insult. Ireland, meanwhile, swamped a fancied Fijian side 44-8 in the autumn but made heavy weather of beating the United States 25-18 in a swamp in Atlanta earlier this month. Their optimism springs from the fact that they have their first profes-

sional coach, the New Zea-lander Murray Kidd, and are reaping the benefits. Ciaran Fitzgerald, a former captain and coach, said: There was at the very least a professional approach by the other nations even before the

acceptance that players and coaches should be paid. "Ireland did not have that same attitude until this season and we have seen real gains from the truly profes-sional outlook. Professional preparation means that our ball retention and other techniques are being improved. We are slowly catching up."

The Scots may be the ones doing the catching up today. Ireland have a potent mix in their backs and, if Elwood can ise them, they will test the defensive skills of lan Jardine and Scott Hastings, Scotland's two hard-tackling centres.

Simon Geoghegan, Jim Staples and the new centre rship of Jonathan Bell and Kurt McQuilkin are all strong, powerful runners apart, are hardly blessed with elusive try-scoring backs.

"Our preparation and our fitness levels, in particular, going into the Five Nations are the best ever," said Ireland's manager Pat Whelan. "We respect Scotland but we do not fear them. I am very confident that we can beat

them."

Scotland's director of rugby Jim Telfer was candid. "The guys know they played badly against Italy," he said. "We

have analysed what went half Gary Armstrong, who wrong. Ireland are a very was playing for the A team at good side. They have not only Donnybrook yesterday.

Yet perhaps the Scots should not be too pessimistic. After all, they began last year on the back of nine games without a win before beating Caneds and two months later

got some very experienced forwards, but also a couple of

Even Gavin Hastings migh admit that Ireland, like

today, are favourites to end an eight-year home run with-

out a victory in this fixture.

skilful half-backs."

meeting England at Twickenham in a Grand Slam decider. A neutral cannot help feeling, though, that the one man who could have swung this game for them is the scrum-half Gary Armstrong, who

Mason outshines Gallagher in scrappy victory over Scots

a comfortable 26-19 win at Donnybrook yesterday.

The Irish, with the former New Zealand full-back

John Gallagher making his debut at centre, were al-ways in command and outscored the Scots by three Gallagher had few oppor-

tunities to further his claim for a senior Irish cap in an arror-strewn match. Consolation for Scotland came with the best try — an incisive four-man move ending with the left-wing John Kerr crossing. Orrell's Simon Mason

| RELAND A ended a run of three victories by their scottish counterparts with quickly hit back after the Scottish score with a push-over try by Paul Wallace. Mason added another penalty before scoring the decisive try, intercepting and racing 30 metres to put Ireland 19-5 ahead at half-

> The Scottish outside-half Scott Welsh then kicked two penalties, only to miss later with the simplest

> Ireland clinched matters with a penalty try when the Scots collapsed a scrum and Peter Walton's score for Scotland followed in injury

Britain let two-goal lead slip

Pat Rowley in Barcelona

DRAW with India was probably no more than might have been expected from Great Britain's first match in the Olympic Qualifying tournament at the Polo Club here. But was it a point lost or a point gained? Against most expectations Britain deservedly led 3-1 at the interval, only to lose their way and end up grateful that India's recovery did not carry

them to victory. . Britain's problems continued when, after the withdrawal of Russell Garcia

the team's anchor, had to to quick inter-passing and a miss the game with back quality goal from Rob spasms. Everything seemed to be going against them when Soma Singh, replacing Halls at the back, conceded a corner and an intricate Indian drill brought them a fifth-minute goal from San-

jeev Kumar. But Britain then began to play out of their skins and, with India's defence strug-gling the corner specialist Calum Giles opened his account. With low flicks he converted Britain's third corner India broke away for Pillay to to equalise and right on half- snatch the equaliser. It was as time added the third. In be- well for Britain that Mukesh

India had been restricted to a few bursts through the middle by Pillay but their right-winger Mukesh Kumar dominated the second period. He intercpeted a Soma clearance to put India back in the game in the 54th minute. Rob Thompson, fed by the substitute Danny Hall, should have restored Britain's twogoal lead immediately but he took his eye off the ball and

through illness, Julian Halls, | tween a long pass by Soma led | failed to take two late chances. Canada, Britain's oppo

nents tomorrow, suffered a 5-1 hiding from Holland, Spain beat Belarus 3-1 and Malaysia's fast counterattacks earned them a 2-1 win over Belgium, who lost their centre-forward De Chaffoy with a broken leg.

CREAT BRITAIN: S Mason, Some Singh, J Wyan, G Fordham, K Takher, S Hazlin, C Mayer, J Shaw, R Thompson, J Laslett (capt), N Thompson. HIDIA: A Subblah; Pargat Singh (capt) Anil Aldrin, Shakeel Ahmed, Riaz Ahmed Harpreet Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Sanjeek Kumar, Dhancaj Piliay, Baljik Saini, G

Sports Betting Letting the spread take the strain

Julian Turner SPREAD betting is sport's answer to the stakeholder society. It can seem confusing at first, because prices are expressed in a completely different way from everyday (fixed odds) betting, but it is in fact all too

simple to understand. A "spread" is the range within which the bookmaker thinks a result will fall. For example, you can bet on the total number of points scored in today's France v England Five Nations match. Yesterday the spread was quoted as

bet lower than 34 (known as "selling") or, if you expected a high-score game, "buy" by betting higher than 37.

But instead of risking a fixed sum, in spread betting you stake an amount per point "Buy" for £10 and you win a tenner for every point the two teams score after 37; the more right you are, the more you win. It works the other way too, which is when things can turn nasty.

Its unique excitement, however, is that prices are adgame. The spread moves up will score 6-8 points more and down in response to what than England in Paris. That

a profit or cut a loss by hedging by phone (and credit account). The spread firms adverts are listed on Teletext

out cricket's very large numbers. The basic spread is the forecast superiority of one team over another but today's best bet is a "mythical match" spread from Sporting Index, who reckon that Irejusted throughout a televised land (at home to Scotland)

34-37 points: you could either | is happening, so you can take | looks like an underestimate. given the Scots' poor away re-cord. Buy Ireland at 8. In the conventional betting world France are firm favour-

(Channel 4, page 590).
FIVE NATIONS: Rugby is ites and rightly so. But at a skinny 11-8, they do not apwell suited to spread betting peal as Grand Slam material as it produces more interest—so take Ladbrokes' 6-5 against nobody doing the slam.
TENNIS: Before tonight's action in the Australian Open, back Agassi to win and

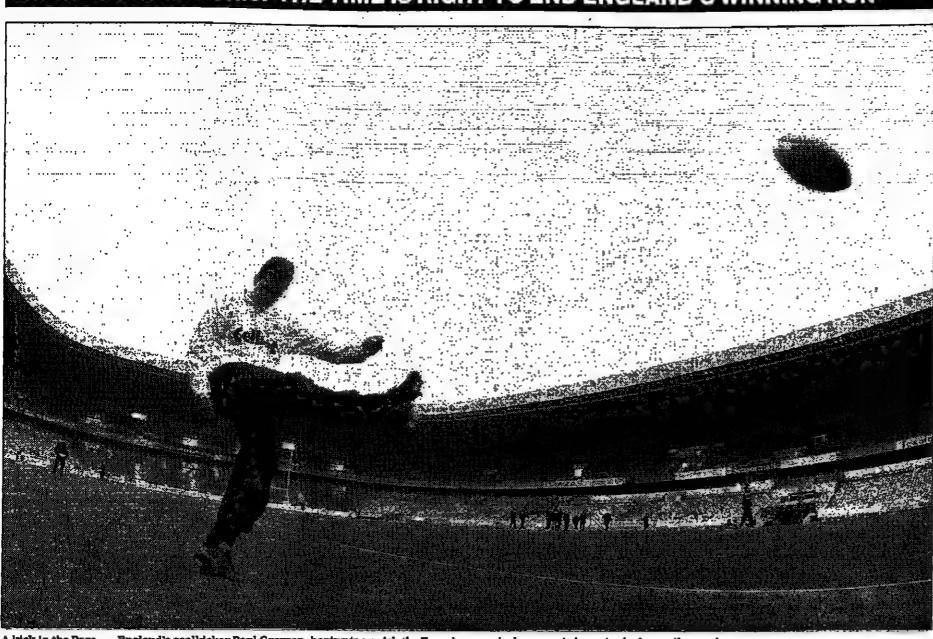
Ivanisevic each-way. Given the final, Coral's 11-4 against him sticks out a mile; the Croat, a generous 14-1 with Bowman of London, is due a result if he can clear Sampras.

lae Mockey

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SportsGuardian

FRANCE INSISTS THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT TO END ENGLAND'S WINNING RUN



A kick in the Parc . . . England's goalkicker Paul Grayson, hoping to punish the French, was crisply accurate in yesterday's practice session

When the loser must eat cake

Frank Keating in Paris on the pride and pressures stoking up the heat before today's landmark meeting of Europe's superpowers

the longest winning streaks in Five Nations memory. It might, therefore, surprise some that France have in-stalled themselves as firm favourites, which is testament to England's somewhat laded performances in their last four internationals of 1995, which included, of course, defeat by France in the World Cup fixture to de-

cide third place. That match in South Africa was the last international played by England's stalwart hooker Brian Moore, whose regular and mischievous pre-match goading of the French team added so much to the gaiety of all nations except an Infuriated Gallic one. Moore this afternoon will

comparatively muted one for England's expectations, Last year Moore's teasing included the taunt that any match against the French was 'like playing against 15 Cantonas". Before the England team flew from Heathrow on Thursday afternoon they put themselves through a grimac-ingly intent and extended training session; yesterday was for winding down. They are staying in Versailles, in a château hotel alongside the former hunting grounds of Louis XIV. After a gentle training hour under a soft, slate sky they went to tread the short grass of Parc des Princes and sniff the empty stadium's atmosphere, which Moore this afternoon will as ever will be raucously red-be up in the commentary box hot this afternoon.

after England XV this and perhaps the absence of afternoon seek to win in Paris for the fifth successive time and perhaps the absence of the team's preparation has helped make this with a satisfyingly crisp with a satisfyingly crisp. sected the H. Today will be a Brian [Moore] to wind them daunting occasion for the

lighly talented young man. It is a most significant fix-ture for, with Scotland's visit to Dublin, the day sees the first officially professional Five Nations occasions since rugby's amateur — shall we say shamateur — regulations rather than the front. He were ditched without cere-made his first international mony here last autumn. The French have been promised bonuses of up to £25,000 a man should they succeed England as Grand Slam champions in spring; England have settled for a basic match fee throughout the tournament, win or lose, of £2,000 each to be added to their season's retainer of £24,000. The England captain Will Carling pooh-poohs the idea

must still be uneasy about the aura of England's four succes sive Paris victories, even up. Simply, it will be a match of mighty big hits — it is al-ways that against France." Carling has seemed particu-

larly relaxed and matily buoyant this week, perhaps in the confidence of his place being on the back pages appearance in this city, in England's 10-9 defeat in 1968; his fly-half then was Les Cusworth, now one of the England coaches with, inevitably, Rory Underwood on the wing. It is a dozen years since the record try-scorer first played for England in Paris, having succeeded another present England coach, Mike Slemen, a fortnight before. There is a rewarding sense of continuity

of bonus payments only for victory. "Bonuses couldn't possibly increase our will to win," he said, adding that for all the French being per ocived as favourites, "they wou up wonderfully. I remem-

ber watching Paris games on newly opened Eurostar train, television when I was at school and being thrilled by tucking napkins into their already straining collars and tion of whistles and brass and château-bottled wines; next day France were trounced in contrast for the bands. When I actually ran out to play here in 1984, it was exactly the same. I love it." comparatively short hop by Boeing, England had time Flying with the team on Thursday one was reminded only for an economy-class egg sandwich and a slice of cake. A piece of cake? Yes, omens

of another anniversary: 40 years ago, almost to the day, an England rugby team became the first to fly to a Paris match. Before, sides had gone Five Nations previow, page by train and ferry. There was sheepishly standing by the step-ladders alongside a tiny BEA twin-propellered aero-plane next to the couple of Nissen buts that then com-

prised Heathrow: Eric Evans in his first year as captain, Peter Robbins, Sandy Sanders and all, plus a lanky London Society referee who was to be

To err is not exclusive to referees



David Lacey

ham are refusing to to leagues next season dressing-room facilities. At the moment they have to change out of doors.
A similar attitude by Pre-

the constant exposure of their frailties would swiftly lead to a

During the FA Cup tie between Derby and Leeds Peter ones sent off Gary Rowett for bringing down Brian Deane ecision looked harsh and, to emphasise the point, a white line appeared on TV screens measuring out the precise dis tance from goal at which the offence had occurred.

Mocking referees by provid-

ing instant information which will never be available to them is unhealthy. In addition eree's powers of discretion is still not fully appreciated.

Last weekend the raised elbow that saw Lee Chapman dismissed by Paul Danson in the player's first match back at Leeds led to much discussion among the pundits but the crucial change introduced by Fifa this season — that intent is no longer an issue except in cases of handball was largely ignored.

Chapman's insistence that West Ham's Marc Rieper would have been a valid de-Only two years ago the FA decided not to bring a misconduct charge against John Fashanu, whose elbow broke Gary Mabbutt's cheekbone in four places and an eye socket in three. Intent, it was argued

had not been established.

Those players or former

selves on the unfunny end of Fashanu's humerus must have taken a wry view of Chapman's red card. A week ago television

revealed that another Wimble don player, Robbie Earle, was right to protest his innocence — though not in such strong language — after being penal-ised for hands by Mike Reed when in fact he had headed away a Bolton centre. But in showing such mistakes TV merely proves that human be ings will sometimes err, despite Fifa's apparent desire for robo-refs.

Glenn Hoddle even grumbled about the referee's watch after Newcastle United had time in their third-round FA Cup tie at Stamford Bridge. The Chelsea manager ques tioned the number of minutes added on and called for inde-

Had clocks been stopped whenever the ball went dead in Wednesday's replay at St James' Park, which lasted 2% hours including the penalty shoot-out, matters would have dragged on beyond midnight In any case Hoddle appeared to have overlooked the fact that much of the stoppage time in the original game was due to Mark Hughes turning a late minor knock into the death scene fróm Camille.

ees? Well, at £325 a game plus expenses, those in the Premier League are practically that now. Making them full-time, far from making them better referees, would surely produce a generation of career conscious officials worldlywise in the matter of knowing whom and whom not to send

in print, at the mike, on screen and on the pitch. Yesterday Gerald Ashby's cautioning of Newcastle's David Ginola, for diving in the Coca-Cola Cup wiped out after the referee adutted de was wr

In yesterday's Daily Mirror Alan Hansen criticised this booking, saying it had been as wrong as Ashby's decision to dismiss Manchester United's Roy Keane at Blackburn for a similar offence which had brought the Irishman a second caution. Keene was certainly unlucky — but the referee that night was not Ashby but David Elleray.

Guardian (10) III NS

Crossword 20,554

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary, will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,554, Reference Marketing, Harper Collins Publishing, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, London. W6 8JB, by first post on Friday Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday January 29.

Address

England crumble Sinton leads transfer spree in move to Spurs to another defeat

and closing cash regis-ters reverberated terday as clubs began to enrich their senior squads. Twenty-four hours after joined Liverpool from Not-selling Ilie Dumitrescu to tingham Forest in 1993. opted

to London from Sheffield for promotion from the first Wednesday. The former England international winger is reunited with the Spurs manager

Queens Park Rangers for £2.5 million. 'Andy is a quality player who will give us new options," said Francis, who bought Ruel Fox to bring pace and incisiveness to the right will strengthen the left.

free-fall, also moved yester-day, joining Manchester City from Liverpool for £1.2 million. The forgotten man of Merseyside football, who West Ham. Tottenham Hot-spur invested the £1.5 million to join City's battle for Pre-miership survival rather than Birmingham City's scramble Division after more than three hours of talks with City's manager Alan Ball and

chairman Francis Lee. City financed yesterday's Park in a £700,000 deal. The deal by off-loading their Swiss international full-back Gerry Francis, who sold him second-choice goalkeeper will step straight into Joe Tony Coton to Manchester Royle's team when he United. Coton had asked for a transfer in order to play firstteam football but now he has agreed to understudy Peter Schmeichel.

rill strengthen the left. The move surprised Ball, Rovers goalkeeper Shay Nigel Clough, another mis- who said: "Tony came to see Given on loan for a month.

Megan Tresidder on Ann Widdecombe

heart. He was unhappy he couldn't get in the first team but he has been a great ser-vant to this club and in trying to help the lad solve his prob lem the chairman and I de cided he would be allowed to leave if a club came in. But ! am surprised he has swapped one bench for another. Ten days after Marc Hot-

tiger announced be had no intention of joining Everton from Newcastle United, he moved yesterday to Goodison receives a new work permit. Sunderland vesterday completed the £300,000 signing of Chelsea's Gareth Hall and signed the young Blackburn

She may be upfront and loud-mouthed, but she is fancy with her

footwork, both in the Commons and during this interview. Most striking

someone who is so sure they are right, it wearies them to spell out why.

of all is her self-certitude. She talks in the crisp, sing-song tones of

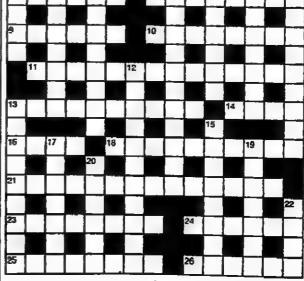
MGLAND's cricketers | pitch and the South Africa went from bad to awful in East London yesterday when, after bowling well to dismiss South Africa for only 129, their batsmen replied with a misone day international by 14 runs and go 5-1 down in the

seven-match series. England, hoping to boost their shattered confidence with the World Cup loom-ing, were undone by the wiles of Paul Adams, who dismissed Graeme Hick (39), Graham Thorpe (0) and Dominic Cork (2) to finish with three for 26, and blind panic that saw Jack Russell and Richard Illingworth needlessly run out. Darren Gough had been the pick of the bowlers with three for 25 but all of them

did well on a slow, low

all-rounder Brian McMil-lan, with 45 not out, was the only home batsman to master the conditions. But in bowling out their

opponents with more than eight overs to spare Eug-land condemned themselves to a 25-minu sion before the dinner break: predictably they failed to negotiate it safely. Craig White touched a Fanie De Villiers delivery to Dave Richardson after making six and in the next over Robin Smith mised the low bounce of a ball from Shaun Pollock, jabbing down on it too late and sending it into his stumps. England reached the break at 12 for two and the rot had set in.



Set by Araucaria

1 The science of controlling itches? (6)

4 Decimal system - in the Vice-President's view? (8) 9 Out with a woman? (6) 10 Sensational South

American bird! (8) 11 Claque taking tea in deciduous development

13 Number, time, and hour briefly spaced out among

the wounded (3.7) 14 Injury for your own good? 18 Seeds of fruit little changed by music-makers (5,5)

21 Heavenly show, and not needing the sailors' lungs 23 Did he come from Warsaw

to be killed by (8) 24 the prince of the village, son of(5)

25 one said to be clothed without delicacy? (8) 26,6 Lamb's attempts at 24's girl, say (6,2,4) Down

1 Made up as a redskin? (4) 2 Call for proportion by 24's



3 24's uncle, I was also brought to book (8)

5 Talking point? Without true change, Walesa takes the

lot (7,4) 6 Sec 25

7 Very large semi built to 8 24 character has little room

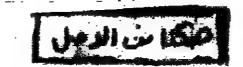
to turn in the planet (9)

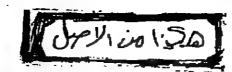
12 Treat as slaves but stand the drinks? (5,6) 13 With a cask at home the doctor, for example, can pull a string (6-3)

15 Return of some gypsy girl seen with a telescope (8 17 US town with house

protector - against me? (7) 19 Joint protector: father to produce relation first (7)

20 Black eye for a star (6) 22 Stephan leaves a flower for Redding (4)





Letters 17 Interview 19 Money 21 Finance 22

Saturday January 20 Sunday January 21 1996 Page 13

OUTE Guardian Cook

A three-day serialisation of a major new book by RUSSELL DAVIES

At the height of his power, Robert Maxwell, the corrupt business tycoon, had the ear of political leaders from Yeltsin to Shamir to John Major. He claimed to be influencing world events while his media empire was crumbling around him. By 1991, the time of his death at sea, things were going badly wrong. He had become increasingly indiscreet. Practically anybody known to Maxwell had a reason for wishing him dead. The question is, who wanted it most? Today and next Monday and Tuesday we present new evidence on his life and death

The Maxwell story

Fall of a tycon

HE UNCLOTHED corpse of Robert Maxwell is adrift in the Atlantic. Borne on a gantle swell, he lies face-up to the dawning sky. The waters lap at the black dye of his hair. It is hard not to think of him as a giant baby, for if there is a motto for this acene, it is to be found in the book of Job, where it is written: "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away". How much help he received in the case of Robert Maxwell is still a stering question.

well is still a vaxing question.

The year of 1991 had been one of most turbulent of the century. Kuwait had been liberated on the last day of February. The World Economic Forum in Davos had taken place at the height of the Gulf war. The attuation within the USSR belied the name of Union, as Lithuania and Latvia struggied to be free. Boris Yeltsin had called for President Gorbachev's resignation. In almost every head-line event, Maxwell had some direct and personal interest. In late June, as tension within Yugoslavia grew, Maxwell, pursuing a new policy of advertising his political clout, published a Mirror Group Newspeipers press release stating that, "The President of Croatia, Dr Franjo Tudiman, has sought help of Publisher Robert Maxwell to publish a message seeking international support for Croatia's declaration of independence."

In April, Yitzhak Shamir, with whom Maxwell had personally interceded, met Soviet Prime Minister Paviov in London, expressing the hope that full diplomatic relations between their countries could soon be restored. The following day, Maxwell announced the flotation of almost half the Mirror Group empire. Only a week later came the issue of documents detailing the proposed sale of Pergamon Press, Maxwell's creation. Nobody who knew Maxwell's commercial history could have taken this for an encouraging signal.

Maxwell was in a most strange situation. The wheels were falling off the charlot of his ambition, yet it was parked already at the centre of world politics. His discussions had helped preserve the democratic momentum in Russia. A Soviet hard-line coup unseated President Mikhail Gorbachev in August. Felix Sviridov, head of Maxwell Communication Corporation in Moscow, received instructions from Maxwell to contact "a number of leading personalities in the Soviet Union", to ask what was needed by way of international help. "Bob Maxwell managed to organise telephone conversations between Mr Yeltain on the one side and a number of Western leaders on the other side." Mitterrand, Kohl and James Baker III were among those who responded.

among those who responded.
In former days, Maxwell himself would have kept quiet about all this. But what had once been "back-door" diplomacy on his part was now placed by Maxwell on the front porch. His large Mirror article, "Why the hard men failed", left readers in no doubt that he himself had succeeded, in telephonic concert with Boris Yeltsin. "I received an urgent message from him, shortly before he was called by John Major.

Yeltsin wanted me to alert the Prime Minister and the White House to the imminent danger he was in, which I did . . . During yesterday and Tuesday." Maxwell continued, "in a series of phonicalls from the Soviet Union, and especially from Mr Yeltsin's office and from Alexander Yakoviev, formerly Mr Gorbachev's closest adviser and friend, all these events were unfolded to me."

But it was the active part of Maxwell's

But it was the active part of Maxwell's programme that must have caused dismay, especially in the White House. "I, in turn," he boasted, "passed details to General Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's National Security Adviser, and to Downing Street." Scowcroft will not have been pleased to see this.

The same issue of the Mirror carried an aggrandising squib about the Downing Street contact. "Prime Minister

an aggrandising squib about the Downing Street contact. 'Prime Minister John Major discussed the failed Soviet coup with Mirror Publisher Robert Maxwell for 10 minutes yesterday. A grateful Mr Major thanked Mr Maxwell for passing 'new important information'.' Not much more than two months later, Major was confirming the truth of this, as part of his obituary tribute to Maxwell. This had indeed been the last service Maxwell performed directly for the United Kingdom.

In the last weeks of Robert Maxwell's life, many filaments of his diplomatic web were being suddenly pulled together. Just 12 days before Maxwell's disappearance, the Israeli embassy in Moscow reopened, after nearly 25 years At the end of October, the Madrid Conference began, and Israelis faced Palestinians, angrily, across a table. The plane that had brought Yitxhak Shamir to Madrid was Maxwell's Gulfstream.

S political satisfactions

deepened, Maxwell's commercial embarrasaments multiplied. A journalistically thorough investigation into his finances and methods of management had been undertaken by the BBC's Panorama programme, which broadcast on Monday. September 23. Writs against the BBC, targeting chiefly its allegation that Maxwell had set up his bingo game to cheat his Mirror readers, satisfactorily post-poned consideration of any material relating to pension funds.

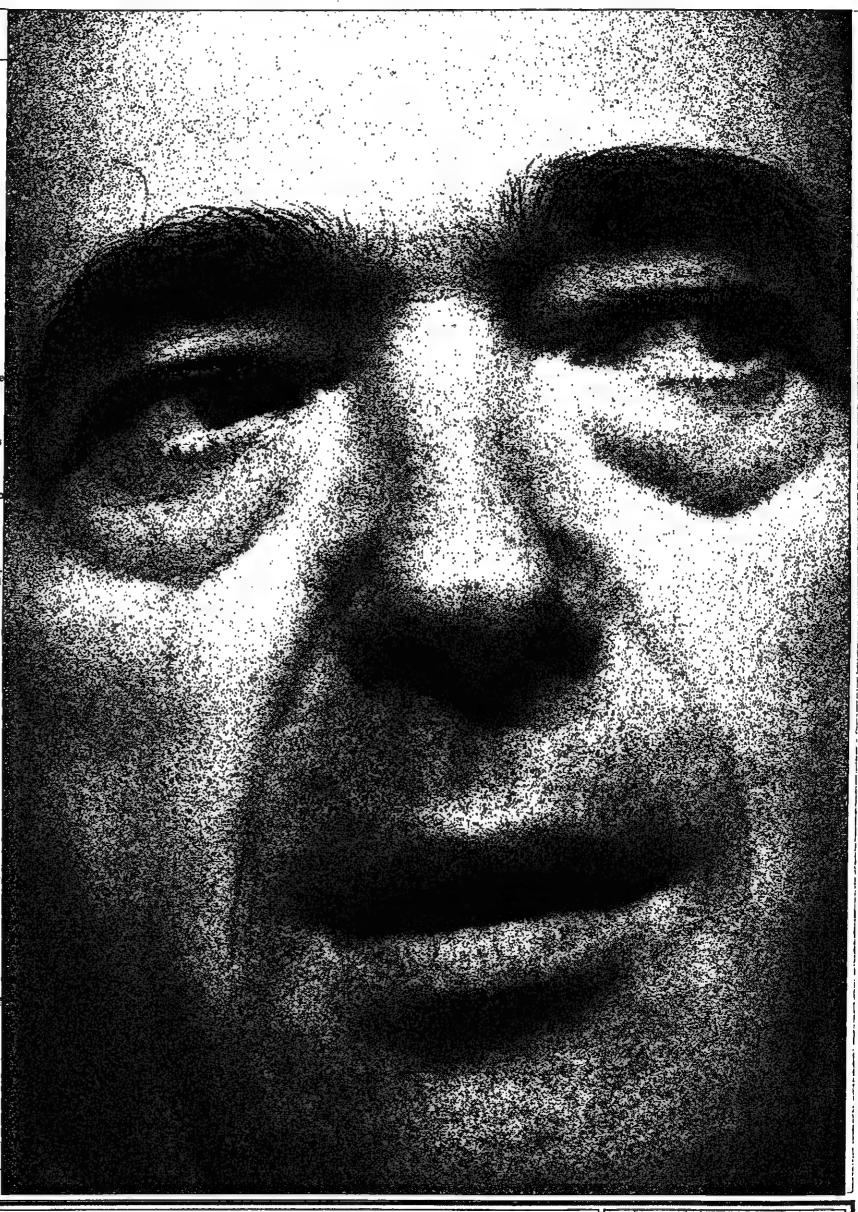
All his lives were becoming public

All his lives were becoming public and high-level officers were leaving his organisation. His deputy chairman at Maxwell Communications, Jean-Pierre Anselmini, resigned and the president of Macmillan also went.

One of the last of his international

One of the last of his international contacts to meet Maxwell in a purely social way was his old friend the Russian ambassador Leonid Zamyatin. It was, Zamyatin believes, "some 13 or 15 days before he flew to Gibraltar". Their conversation was pleasant, friendly: Maxwell said it was his dream to merge the Macmillan publishing empire with that of McGraw-Hill, and he "had now bought all the appropriate companies". His ambition at that moment seemed contred on America. But he would neve see America again.

The final voyage, pages 14-15



Ø STAMP



The MALT



The MACALLAN

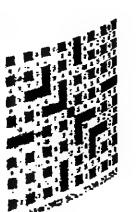
DRAWS REMARKABLY SOFT,

CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS FROM

NATURAL BORE HOLES FOR TRANS-

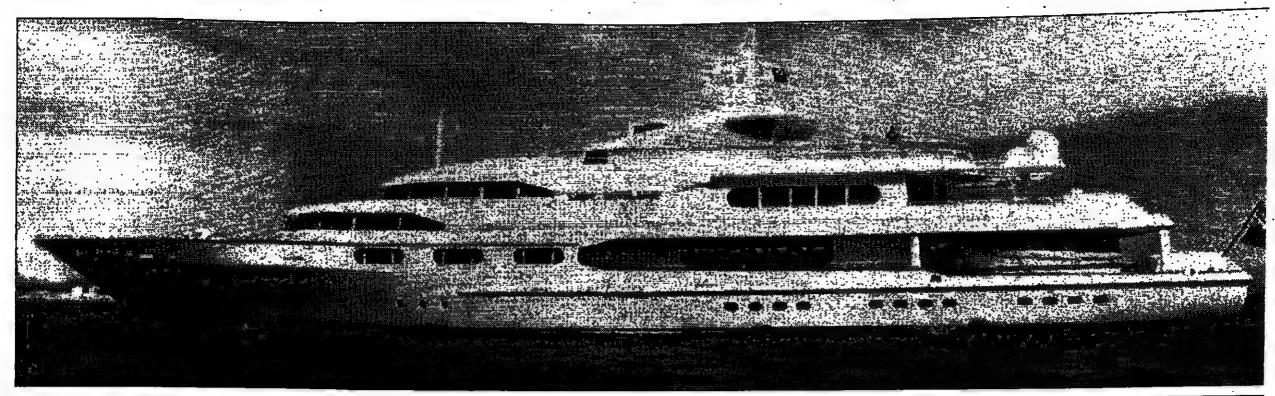
FORMATION INTO THE NECTAR

THAT IS THE MALT



ossword 20,554

The last voyage





Ploating embassy... Maxwell's luxury cruise ship (above) was used to ntertain heads of state. Maxwell takes the sun on board the Lady Chislaine (left) during the fateful voyage. Three of the Ghislaine crew in Tenerife eanish olain clothes Gus Rankin (far right) and





The mystery over Maxwell's death remains. Much of the evidence points to suicide or accident. But what about the strange bruising and torn arm muscles, the satellite pictures of another boat alongside his yacht? For the first time Captain Angus Rankin talks in depth about the final hours. It is clear that murder cannot be ruled out

1991, the Lady braltar, waiting to sail to New York, where most of the crew had been taken on just a few months earlier. The captain, Angus J Rankin, had himself joined the vessel only in May. Although he is a resident of Pocahontas, Arkansas, Captain Rankin's accent betrays a British origin. He is a burly and unsmiling man; and though it is no part of an offi-cer's duty to conform to a stereotype of clean-cut eager ness, something about Rankin, as seen in interview footage, tends rather strikingly the other way. This also was the initial reaction of Dr Elisabeth Maxwell, who records in her book A Mind Of One's Own. how he did not give "the spruce naval appearance of previous captains. Some of the crew gave me the same impres-sion. The boat did not seem quite 'ship-shape' to me." Nor did she care for Rankin's manner. "The captain did not know me, yet he immediately adopted a familiar way of talking about Bob, which I did not like at all because it didn't ring true, familiar as I was with Bob's loathing for intimate conversation."

Considering that 11 crew members were on board the Lady Ghislaine to conduct Maxwell's last voyage, remarkably little has been heard of their side of the story. Once permitted by the Spanish au-thorities to leave their last port of call, they dispersed with impressive speed and have not been heard from since. Only Gus Rankin has remained contactable, and his version of events now emerges for the

WHEN a message came through that Maxwell wanted to be called because he was

planning to come to the boat, Rankin says he was disinclined to believe it. "My first reaction was to call one of the secretaries to find out if this was for real, which I did. Early next day, Rankin called Maxwell again and received his confirmation "that he would like to go with us out to Madeira. He was trying to get rid of a cold that he'd had for quite some time." Maxwell ar rived on time, and apparently in a good mood. "When he arrived on the boat he just brought his normal stuff and quite a lot of papers." The Lady

Ghislaine left Gibraltar within an hour or so". It was a two-day trip to Madeira. If a desperate and sui-cidal Maxwell was on board, he had his chances to get it all over with on the way. Instead he emerged at Funchal looking remarkably like his normal self. "Somehow," Rankin says, "the press knew that we were arriving with him before we arrived." It would be interesting to know how this hap-pened. At all events, photo graphs were taken — the last o

Maxwell alive. The most apocalyptic desire Maxwell expressed that day. however, was to go swimming. By permission of the harbour master, Rankin took the Lady Ghislaine out to an appropriately uninhabited island called Desertus, where Max-well did indeed swim for "about 10 minutes", in Rankin's recollection; but it was too cold. They returned to Madeira where, that evening, a crew member took Maxwell ashore. He visited the casino, with \$3,000 in hand. The briefness of his stay suggests limited enjoyment.

Rankin says that he and the crew had been expecting Max-well to return to London the following morning, but instay a couple of extra days and go somewhere else, and we dis- the outside world, therefore.

cussed the options, which is why we went to Tenerife". This was another overnight trip. The next day, Maxwell again went swimming. Before they all returned to Santa Cruz, he announced that he was leaving the following morning, and asked, "if it would be possible that night if we could take the boat out, because he slept bet-ter on the boat at sea if it was calm, rather than just sittin in port". Maxwell said that in the morning he would release and New York. He would eat

ashore that night. As he did so, the Anglo-Is-rael Association was convening in London, under the im-pression that it was to be addressed by Robert Maxwell. In the event, his son Ian read the speech, which had been worked out between them over Maxwell's satellite telephone. "Of all nights that my father would have wished to have been present, this, I think, would be it."

Maxwell, meanwhile, returned to the boat "about a quarter to 10, 10 o'clock Our course was set to go round the north end of Gran Canaria, staying about five miles offshore all the way around, and end up in Los Cristianos after nine o'clock the following day." Rankin himself soon went off watch. "At midnight l turned it over to the mate and they followed the course."

At the time he went to bed, Maxwell had been wearing a nightshirt. (The garment was later found on the floor of his state room.) He received a late telephone call from his Ian. who let him know how the Anglo-Israel speech had gone. It is known that a further call came in, from Rabbi Vogel, one of a number of Lubavitcher rabbis who were agitating for sacred Jewish texts to be exported from Russia, Maxwell's last two communications with dealt intimately with the Jew-ish past he had for so long

denied. Gus Rankin came back on watch at 8am. He estimates the boat was 25 miles from Los Cristianos at that point. They anchored off the town about 9.45am "and then waited for Mr Maxwell to appear". When a phone call came in about 0.30am, Rankin advised that Maxwell was still in his cabin. The caller didn't feel he neede to be disturbed. Then a more urgent call came in at 11am. Rankin gave the same reply. but this time it was imperative that Maxwell be roused. That's when we first got the inkling that he wasn't there." Suspecting a medical prob-lem, be says, Rankin went down through the office to tr to make entry through the bathroom that adjoined his [bedroom] and that was locked". He took with him the ship's chef, who was an instructor in resuscitation techniques. "We then went around to the aft entrance, a sliding door, knocked on there and tried to get a response." There was none. The door was locked, so Rankin used his pass key. ... expecting now to see somebody either passed out on the bed or on the deck or something. And nobody inside

— rather strange feeling!" The bed had been slept in, and clothes were scattered about. Rankin now organised a orough search of the vessel While these bizarre and repeated manoeuvres were underway, no notification of a man overboard had yet been nade. At one point, a blackhaired figure was spotted swimming near the beach;

looking through binoculars, Rankin couldn't swear it was not Maxwell. "We put a boat over the side to go over and have a look and see if it was him: and just before the hoat got there, the man walked out on to the beach and one could tell it wasn't Maxwell.' The mate was rowing the boat. Having failed to contact the local radio station ashore, Rankin instructed him to "go in and speak to the harbour we suspected, that he had gone missing during the night". In the meantime, Rankin says, he and the crew fell to

sorting out who had seen or spoken to Maxwell last. It was then that it emerged that, at 4.25am, the second engineer had received a request from Maxwell for the air-conditioning to be turned up. This was not a telephonic request: both men had been taking the air towards the stern of the vessel and had spoken face to face. Half an hour later, Maxwell allegedly asked for the cooling system to be turned down again. No later message from him is reported.

Eventually the Lady Ghislaine "put out an SOS through the sat[ellite] comm[unication] system". More than an hour had passed between the discovery of the empty stateroom and the successful transmission of a message to the outside world. Rankin went in and spoke to the port captain at

scene

Los Cristianos, and an effort was made to estimate where the vessel had been at 5am, which was the latest stated time at which Muxwell had been alive. A message went out to ships in the vicinity. In an effort to inform the family, Rankin also called Maxwell's offices in London. "By chance I spoke with Brian Hull, who was one of the airplane captalus; and his suggestion was would be Kevin Maxwell." He

he did. Kevin and Ian were together to receive the news. Rankin presumes that some one intercepting the sat-comm message had passed it on to the media, because calls now started to come in from repor-ters. The first such call, he believes originated in New York. By this point, the police had arrived to inspect Maxwell's stateroom. They taped up a safe they found there, to which Rankin had no key. Later, when Betty Maxwell arrived, she first insisted on a private interview with Rankin, during which he gave it as his belief that her husband had committed suicide. This theory she rejected. In Maxwell's cabin. she went straight to the hidingplace of the key, and opened the safe: it was empty. Dr Max-well's inspection of the room

should have been taken as a

minor stage in its examination

for forensic purposes. Instead, amazingly, it was taken by the

called Kevin, who asked him to call again in 10 minutes; when

local police as the signal for the whole investigation of the site to be wound up. As Re has it: "The room was left intact until Mrs Maxwell was there, spoke to the police, did whatever there was — and at that point, the police gave permission for the room to be cleaned up." Rather icily, Ran-kin re-emphasises, "The police gave that permission.

million personal insur-ance policy, Lloyd's of London called in Dr Isin West, a pathologist at Guy's Hospital, to give an causes of death. Dr West did not examine the body until it balmed condition, in Israel for burial. "I gather," says Dr West, "that the boat was handed over to the relatives very quickly...I think the deck was washed down. We lost a crime . . . a potential crime scene." The slip of the tongue is revealing of doubts. In spite of the fact that Dr Wes has tended all along to favour very narrowly — the theory of suicide, it is clear he wishes that all the potential evidences of crime had been preserved

The insurance report is much the most thorough inves-tigation made of an incident in which Scotland Yard might have been expected to have taken a more lively interest. It is believed, for example, that

sic symptoms of mystery, locked doors. As Maxwell was retiring for the night, he asked the stewardess to lock his main stateroom door from the inside, and leave the area through his bathroom, into the area described by Rankin as the "office". Later, Rankin himself found that door to have been locked from the inside because that's the only way to lock it". The main door, aft. was also found to be locked. It was equipped with a key that would lock it from either side; but since there was nobody in the room, it was inevitably deduced that Maxwell had gone out on the aft deck at some time after 5am, taking the key with him. Whatever process accounted for Maxwell's ending up in the sea had taken the key, too. "There was a pres-ence of mind," Rankin reasons. "Closing the door, looking it, while the beauty of the taking it. aking the key out and having

not until Dr West entered the

ase were sea-water samples

een ingested or absorbed by

Maxwell's body. (Such find-

of death, though in this case they did not.) On the other

aboard the Lady Ghislaine

which were never examined by anybody. Maxwell's aide,

example, that Maxwell had taken to keeping guns on board, which he referred to

cryptically, when checking they were in place, as "vegeta

would surely have been of in-terest to an investigating police force: but they were never mentioned.

One almost painfully tradi-

tional aspect of this case is that

theories purporting to solve it must contend with those clas-

bles". If these existed, they

check whatever liquid had

that presence of mind at that point to do that. There'd be no reason to lock the door from he outside if he were planning to go back in. And why take the key? Was this done to maybe keep us crew members to think [sic] that he was still inside? I think so." Well, yes: clearly anybody who locked the door had the motive of postponing as long as possible the world's awareness of the emptiness within. It is not a pattern of action that particularly points to Maxwell as its perpetrator. If Maxwell's entry into the

water had been a violent one, would it have been heard? Rankin says emphatically not The boat was moving along a about 131/2, 14 knots; and that doesn't seem fast by driving standards, but you drop a can over the side and see how fast it disappears from you, it disappears rapidly. Plus you've got the noise of engines, the turbulence of the water and you've got a crew pretty much forward on the boat. With closed doors, they're not going to hear it all." Once over the side, the 22-stone Maxwell was on his own. Rankin even suggests that his second order to the second engineer was a ruse to secure his privacy. "I think maybe the air-conditioning

call to the wheelhouse — voi snow, 'Can you change it back — might have been the way of keeping the engineer away from the aft deck again." It was at dusk just after 5.30pm local ings may often conclusively indicate drowning as the cause time, and not quite four and a half liours after the first search operations, that a Spanish Air hand, there were aspects of life Force plane — a Hercules in the first reports, later a Fokker — spotted the body in the sea, some 20 miles south-west of Nicholas Davies has stated, for Gran Canaria. Less than 45 minutes later, the body was winched aboard a helicopter and flown to the airport at Las Palmas. It was formally identi-fied later that evening by Dr Betty Maxwell and her eldest

son, Philip.
The Spanish pathologists, like the police, seem to have gone about their work with only a limited range of suspl-cions in mind. Their most pru-dent act was to send samples of the inner organs to Madrid for analysis; there proved to be no significant toxins in Maxwell's system, though traces of a cold

remedy had been found.
His widow had now ques-tioned Rankin for a second time. "I felt a sense of malaise that is difficult to describe or explain," she records. "Nothanswers and yet Bob's death still made no sense to me." No note, no statement to the world had been left behind. But there was little time to ponder these matters, since it had now been determined that the body, if it were to be buried in Maxwell's purchased plot on the Mount of Olives, needed, by Jewish religious law, to arrive in Israel before dusk on the Friday of that week, in time for the Sabbath. This timetable was met, at considerable cost to the thoroughness of procedures in Tenerife. It was on the Saturday, in

13.00

Tel Aviv, that Dr West, his wife, Dr Vesna Djurovic (an-other forensic pathologist from Guy's Hospital), and some Israeli colleagues, were enabled to perform their own post-mortem examination, at the Insti-tute of Forensic Medicine, A video recording of the process was made, and subsequently leaked to the magazine Paris-Match. In Tenerife, the impor-tance of the case had only slowly dawned on local officials: here, it was understood in its full notoriety, not to mention its large potential cost to Maxwell's insurers. But the state of the remains was far from ideal, "Remember," says Dr West, "T'm looking at him after the body's been em-balmed, and been embalmed in such a way that the tissues became very fixed by formalin, and therefore minor injuries

could easily be missed."

Bearing that in mind, says Dr West, "We're left with basically four options." First, there were signs of incipient heart and lung disease which were potentially lethal; but if Maxwell had died of either, "I would have expected him to have fallen on the deck and remained there, so I think that's by far the least likely. Then again, Maxwell could Continued on opposite page



The deck was washed. We lost a potential crime

man Survitar January 2018

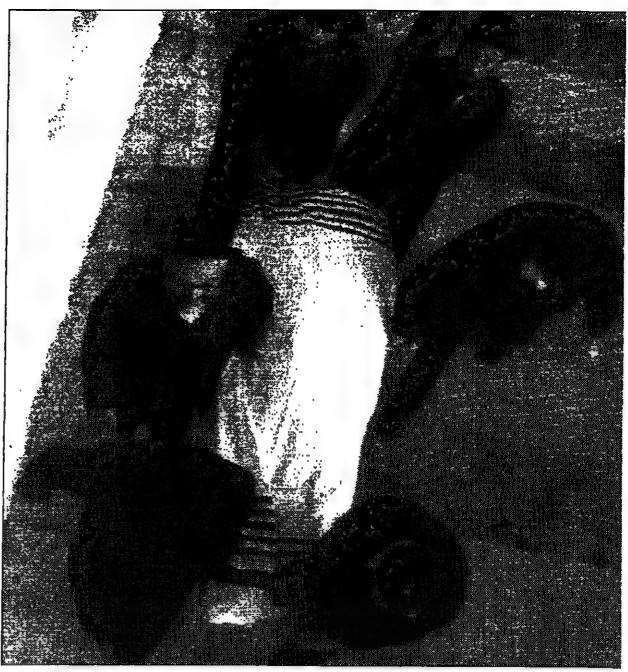
The body of Robert Maxwell is carried to the graveside on the Mount of graveside on the mount of Olives in Jerusalem (below right). Elizabeth Maxwell and her daughters Isabel and Ghislaine (below) share their grief during the funeral. Pathologist Ian West (right).







helicopter that brought the body of Maxwell to the Gando Air Base on Grand Canary Island (left).



Who wanted him dead?

LMOST everyone had some reason to wish him out of the way. As Rupert Alleson MP, also known as the writer Nigel West, has it. "The number of people who would have been willing to undertake that particular exercise must be able to form a queue right round the entire block." They included such candidates as the Iranians whose erstwhile leader, Ayatollah Khomei-ni, Maxwell had insulted in a speech to the eadquarters staff of the UK Land Forces of the British Army. "Let us deal with the barbarian in his own coin, the only coin that so diseased and underdeveloped a mind can understand, the coin of a price on his bead." He had nominated \$10 million.

In New York, more recently, some of the mob-run trade unions had taken less than kindly to Maxwell's "rationalisation" of the Daily News workforce, "A senior mob person" was reported as saying: "If you go on acting like this, you're going to end up in the East River with your throat cut."

The international political community had particular reasons to be alarmed by Maxwell's recent activities. Many nations held information on him, but only recently had the evidence begun to be drawn together — notably by Maxwell himself. Seymour Hersh's arms dealing allegations, in which were newly in the public domain. Yitzbak Shamir had rebutted those parts or the story that implicated him, although Maxwell's swaggerings in the interview he gave Play-boy shortly before his death again suggeste close links between the two men. Maxwell had claimed that his policy and Shamir's were identical, that he had represented Shamir in talks with James Baker, that he had been instrumental in cooling the Israeli rea ponse to Iraqi missile attacks. How much more of Israel's private business was he prepared to reveal? His writs against Hersh and his publisher, and Allason and Galloway, who had raised questions in Parliament on the subject, would be defended: dangerous witnesses would be brought to court. But the

death of the litigant would close the cases. There were yet more possibilities. In the conventional business world, there are not many creditors who feel so strongly about unpaid debts that only the death of the debtor will give satisfaction; but in his



Some unions didn't like 'rationalisation'

dealing with a new generation of post-Com-munist trader, practising a capitalism that took little account of traditional business ethics, and still had access to Cold War methods of enforcement. Maxwell's empire was a shambles of high-interest obligations: if a debt had been called in, and it was discovered that Maxwell had "adopted" the funds and committed them elsewhere in his em-pire, some old friends might have turned

against him, definitively.
The KGB, the old Central Committee of the Communist Party, and the former Bulgarian government all had interests here, and between them, in the past, they had worked up some picturesque ways of doing away with irables. It is interesting that nobody in the former Eastern bloc appears to believe that Maxwell met a natural end. As Stanislav Sorokin of the KGB has declared, "I think it was a contract killing performed very pro-fessionally to look like suicide." Felix Sviridov's formulation is that "somebody helped him to die".

But to do that, one had to keep up with Maxraticand often impro ments. It was the Britselves who were now most assidaously. Inves-



Ayatoliah Ehomeini . . . Maxwell insulted him the Finan-

cial Times revealed on June 15, 1992 that, at the time of Maxwell's death, a full intelligence report was prepared for the Joint Intelligence Com mittee. It is clear that thorough records had been kept on his movements. But these had now been augmented by a variety of electronic surveillances made necessary -- and possible — by the latest developments in ommunications technology. It fell to Mr Robin Robison, a former ad-

ministrative officer for the JIC, to reveal in the same report that Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), the Cheltenham intelligence centre, was keeping a close watch on Maxwell in 1989, two years before his death. Mr Robison, who had been spurred to make these disclosures by his Quaker principles, said: "The sigint (signals intelligence) I saw in the autumn of 1989 included intelligence data on Robert Maxwell taken from telephone conversations and faxes intercepted in Israel and the Mediterranean, probably from his yacht, the Lady Ghislaine." Mr Robison recalled that the nformation had been variously distributed according to content, among the offices of the Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, and officials he identified as representing the Bank of England.

In late 1989, the most politically active and exciting phase in Maxwell's career had only just begun, with the fall of the Berlin Wall. It is inconceivable that GCHO's surveillance can have relaxed at this point: it will have intensified, not only because Maxwell's ac-tivities were becoming intrinsically more interesting month by month, but because the surveillance methods themselves were becoming more formidably cute. Where Maxwell himself was stuffing his employees' telephones with clumsy and discove bugs, the eavesdroppers on his own affairs were able to aim lasers at window panes, and read speech from the vibrations of the glass. Among the bodies licensed by the Interception of Communications Act of 1985 to authorise phone-tapping had been the Department of Trade and Industry — the enemy who had once judged Maxwell unfit to exer-

cise stewardship of a public company. First reports of the government listening-posts' involvement were amplified by the Guardian, who reported that communica-tions from the Maxwell yacht "—were inter cepted by GCHQ, with the help of British submarines, after a tip-off from the CIA in the late Eighties that he was suspected of being involved in arms deals. His conversations were sent by low frequently trans-mission to GCHQ's outstation at Edzell on Tayside, Scotland." This information came evidently from a different source, since it was presented as "corroboration" of Robison's disclosures. Such evidence of collusion between the CIA and the British intelligence services may have been the beginning of the end for Maxwell, certainly in a commercial

In a way it is surprising that his credit being busily withdrawn at the time of his death, was allowed to endure so long. Maxwell was embarrassing everybody.

have fallen overboard accidentally; but the sea was not rough, there were no abrupt changes of course, and "one would have to do something quite active to fall over". The third option, says Dr West, is suicide: "And clearly the prob lems that he had at that time could cause a person to kill themselves. HE fourth option is

murder, "In order to

demonstrate that at

least from a pathology point of view. one's got to have injuries which are suggestive, or even characteristic of, an asault. Now, whiist some of the injuries could have occurred during an assault. I could see nothing which indicated there had been an assault." This determinedly non-controversial ist stance would later emerge as an area of disagreement be tween Dr West and his Israeli colleagues. Unfortunately, the possibility of violence involved the very category of evidence most clumsily, and effi-ciently, obscured by the Spanish post-mortem, and indeed the contemporaneous efforts of the police. "I don't think the Spanish police investigation was particularly thor ough, so a lot of the evidence which could have assisted in saying whether we were deal ing with a suicide or a homiide wasn't gathered." West was therefore left in the position of being unable to rule out the murder theory. 'Tve got no positive evidence of homicide o it remains a possibility, one which one simply can't

As for the manner of Maxwell's entry into the water, the found by West here was "a tear of a fairly large muscle in the back of the shoulder blade, not caused by impact but caused by violent stretching of that muscle". This damage is consistent with Maxwell's "holding on to something and his body suddenly dropping so that the shoulder takes all his weight, even for a relative short time. He wasn't particu larly fit, so that the muscle wouldn't be able to cope with this sudden violent wrenching it would simply split." Since Maxwell "was clearly alive when the muscles received the damage", this injury suggests that Maxwell clung briefly to some projecting part of the ves sel, such as the rail, but was unable to hold on. So it is conceivable that Maxwell's entry into the sea was voluntary and gradual, until the mome when he dropped and was wrenched away into the wake of the Lady Ghislaine. To cause the tears, Maxwell would have needed to be hanging on by his left hand: he was indeed left-

At the same time, it does not eem particularly likely that a man who swam well, and to whom swimming was a pleasure, would have chosen such an anti-instinctive way to die. Neither does Maxwell appear to have made any preparations for the moment of his depar-

ture. Suicides, who are otherwise sane, commonly nerve elves up with a large intake of alcohol, but Maxwell's organs gave no evidence of an such ingestion. Betty Maxwell re-emphasised at her sons trial her astonishment at the lack of any final note or message. It must have been a dark night of the soul indeed if Maxwell merely walked out on deck, locked his door, and dropped first the key, and then

his life, into the ocean From the point of view of an sassin, it was necessary only to get Maxwell into the water. He would soon be left far behind: a 22-stone man, alone in cold see at night. Maxwell would not go quietly, so it would be necessary to hit him first an injury noted in the area of the right ear — with bruising severe enough to sur-vive the embalming process went unexplained, as did a curious bruise on the shoulder. As Dr West admits, "I can't explain the patterned injury on the back of the shoulde this little, relatively superficial bruise which has left a pattern of some sort of fabric on the surface of the skin." But if Maxwell was assaulted within his stateroom, there were a good many fabric-cov-ered surfaces against which he could have fallen heavily enough to sustain an impact bruise of this kind. It is imaginable that a Max-well thus assaulted could have

recovered sufficiently to resist being bundled into the sea, and hung on long enough to tear his shoulder muscles. Then either his attackers, or the pain of his injury, loosened his grip. After that, he was lost or so an assailant would be entitled to assume. But Maxwell, returned to consciousness by the cold slap of water, had one more hope. His shoulder injury would have made it impossibly painful to swim, and besides, there was nowhere to swim to in the dark; but, if he could float for long enough on the "flat calm" waters, day would break and he might be spotted. So he lay on his back in the water and waited for sunrise. The combination of agony and fear a man in that position would suffer is unomfortable to imagine. This was not a northern s but the month was November.

and after just 10 minutes of swimming on a recent day, the water had been judged too cold. So it was while the floating Maxwell waited that hypothermia overcame him. The posture in which his body was found, face-up to the sky most unusual in a person supposedly drowned — may well have been the one in which he died. Since the classic symptoms neither of drowning nor of disease induced heart fail-ure were found, the probabilty is strong that Maxwell died of reduction in body temperature — effectively, of exposure Buoyant with body-fat, he confinued to float. Above all, his outspread posture in the water indicates that, far from seeking

death, he was doing the only

Motives for a face-saving ho-

thing he could to survive.

micide are embarrassingly abundant. The practicalities of the matter are not necessarily complex either. Three scher uggest themselves for getting the victim into the sea. A per son or persons unknown on the vessel could have done it; strangers could have boarded the boat and carried out the operation without the crew's knowledge; or the whole event could have taken place by ar-rangement, with the crew

turning a blind eye. Captain Rankin dismisses the idea of a boarding party at sea - even one with the kind of training our own Special Boat Service receives. "Without being detected? I would say not possible, because even if there isn' somebody on the aft deck, we do have other equipment for detecting other boats... The instructions to the crew were any vessel that comes within five miles of this boat I am to be called — I, the captain, am to be called. Nobody called me," Rankin also dismisses the persistent rumour that there exsists a satellite photograph showing another boat along-side the Lady Ghislaine. "That's the first I've ever heard about a satellite photograph and why would somebody be taking a satellite photograph of the boat? Does that mean they're taking satellite photographs of all boats as time goe on? I don't know." As Rankin is aware, the presence of Mas-well on board his vessel iswers these questions in

advance.

events has been strangely pas sive. Not so the French. Paris-Match, having received from Israel the 80-minute video of the second, four-hour autopsy evidently from a source who felt the proceedings called for a third opinion, and a non-Brit-ish one — made it the subject of a large report in their edition of January 9, 1992. The conviction the magazine reached, in consultation with experts of its own who saw the tape (but nothing but the tape), was that Maxwell had been attacked before death, and possibly vio-lently beaten. The nose and and on the body were found several haemotomas — swellings containing blood — which are the body's common response to heavy blows. Profes-sor Louis Roche, a former president of the International Academy of Forensic Medicine, drew attention to three such haematomas. "They are not very serious in them-selves." be commented, "but they prove that there was trauma" before death.

The British attitude to these

EFENDING their conclusions in the following week's issue, Paris-Match stated that they had consulted Dr Birtolon Levy, the Hungarian-born pathologist who had taken part in the Tel Aviv post-mortem. He had told them somewhat enigmatically that, "It wasn't the Holy Ghost who did what was done to Maxwell." According to a "reliable but confidential source", Paris-Match added, Dr Levy had expressed himself more forcefully in the mmediate aftermath of the ex amination. "What is certain," he was reported as saying "is that, if they hadn't hit him, Maxwell would still be alive today.

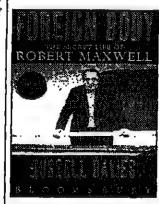
revived at the London trial of lan and Kevin Maxwell. Dr Jehuda Hiss, director of the Forensic Institute in Tel Aviv and another of the team, pointed out in court that, if Maxwell had jumped voluntarily into the sea, "obviously neither the lacerations nor the raematoma would have been present. Even if he had suddenly changed his mind and tried to cling on to the vessel, remained hard to account for. "For these reasons," Dr Hiss concluded, "it is my opinion that it is unlikely the deceased committed suicide. It is more likely that he fell involuntaril into the sea either as a result of accident or homicide.

On the same day, a statement from Dr Jane Ward. a Lecturer in Physiology at Guy's and St Thomas's hospitals, was read into the proceedings, raising the possibility that Maxwell had suffered 'micturition syncope", a condition which causes men, in particular, to faint while urlnating. Maxwell was in the babit of relieving himself over the side of the boat at night (and, if his employees are to be believed, over the side of the Mirror building during the day). But such a theory would seem to be subject to the same

irawbacks as those cited by Dr

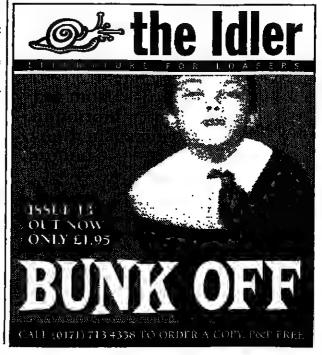
West as making a beart attack an unlikely cause: "I don't think that be would have dropped from disease and then fallen into the water, he would have ended up on the deck, and I don't think once he's on the deck he could simply roll into the sea." Dr West, who had visited the yacht, had gone ther: Maxwell would have needed to do "something ouite active", he said, in order to fall over the side. And, in the un-likely event that Maxwell did aint and then toppled over the rail, his impact and muscle inurles are still to be accounted for. All in all, murder remains the one explanation which no medical expert is able to set

RUSSELL DAVIES IS & distinguished freelance writer and broadcaster. He has resented more than 60 editions of What The Papers Say, He never worked for Robert Maxwel



Foreign Body is published next week by Bloomsbury, £14.99

ON MONDAY: How MI6 helped build Maxwell's empire in the East PLUS: Doing business with the Politburo



OBERT Maxwell was innocent OK? Not quite. But in the famous phrase of Pandora Maxwell, the jury in the nine-month trial of her husband and brother-in-law returned yesterday to tell the Serious Fraud Office to "piss off". The two youngest sons of the rogue publisher were both found not guilty at the end of the trial stemming from the missing millions of Maxwell pension money. So were two co-defendants, one live and one dead. The late Robert Maxwell, included as a codefendant on one of two charges, was implicitly exonerated. George Staple. director of the SFO, was philosophical: "The criminal justice system has functioned in the way it is designed to do so." Not quite your honour.

The strategy in this latest trial was clear enough. After a succession of disastrous failures to achieve a conviction in complex City frauds, the SFO re-ordered its approach.

This time the charges could not have been more simple. Just two charges based on one common law offence of conspiracy to defraud involving two sets of assets: one bundle of £100

million shares and another of £22 million. Kevin, the younger son, was linked to Robert on one charge, a move which seemed certain to send him down. Indeed, defence lawyers strove - in lengthy arguments in the absence of the jury - to have the trial halted because Robert Maxwell's name was "synonymous with fraud". Yet still the jury returned a not guilty verdict.

Does this mean Roskill was right? It is now 10 years since the Roskill Committee proposed special tribunals for complex city fraud. Instead of trial by jury there would be a judge with two expert assessors in perhaps a dozen cases out of the 5,000 frauds a year. In principle this has been supported in these columns. Mr Justice Henry, who presided over both Guinness trials, has rightly called for quicker and cheaper fraud trials. Yet it is three and a half years since the Maxwell brothers were arrested. The legal and court costs since then are almost as shameful as the missing £400 million from the Maxwell pension funds. Total cost of the trial and investigation is estimated at £30 million.

The Maxwell case was not quick but it was meant to be simple. Predictably, the lawyers were able to make sure even the simple charges were complicated. The jury was told about tax avoidance schemes, devised by a former Inland Revenue officer, that were so complex that several QCs were called to explain them. They heard about massive sums regularly switched, borrowed, and transferred between a labyrinth of companies in the Maxwell empire.

And yet, our city reporter at the trial

remains sympathetic to the jury's verdict. It is not enough to draft simple charges. They also have to be proved: that there was a dishonest agreement to defraud. The prosecution argued that the shares belonged to the investment company which administered the Maxwell Group's multi-million pound pension schemes and were not for Maxwell to trade or pledge; the Maxwell brothers claimed they had been transferred to the Robert Maxwell Group, a private side of the Maxwell empire, and were available to be traded.

Maxwell looks like a case of a jury understanding the issues but being unconvinced by the Crown's arguments. They took the trial seriously, put their job before their personal lives, retired for 11 days and even asked to sit on Saturday. What the SFO needs to do is reassess its strategy. This prosecution was neither simple nor quick. Is this inevitable? Were its court tactics right? Will defence lawyers always be able to muddy the simplest of indictments? Would a Roskill-style tribunal, able to handle complex charges, have been fairer?

Last year's review of the SFO rejected the idea of merging it with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). That was right. The CPS is making enough mistakes without taking on major fraud. Last year the SFO was handling 50 active cases involving £5 billion in fraud.

All 33,000 Maxwell pensioners have recently been promised that their longterm future is secure but no one should forget the liquidator's comments: "I have never come across a case that involved so much suffering."

Every minute Body matters

HE Prime Minister, a Conservative backbencher said this week, "is thinking electorally all the time". Ah yes, but which election? The general election which the country wants and needs? Or the leadership one which surfaced again at Westminster this week, less than six months after John Major had supposedly routed his enemies for ever?

The trouble for Mr Major is that once again the two cannot easily be disentangled. The fundamental problem facing the Conservatives is that they continue to be 40 points behind in the unadjusted opinion polls and nearly 20 adrift in the adjusted ones. Faced with these figures, Conservative morale, which has been poor at the best of times for at least a year, becomes dire. MPs decide to throw in the towel on their political careers. Peter Lilley abandons a seat which he has held for 18 years because a 9,000-plus majority is too small to defend. The gloves come off in the internal party battle, as candidates jockey for the leadership contest that is to come and previously loyal supporters break rank to denounce rival wings of the party.

No wonder Mr Major let it be known on Thursday night that Central Office has cleared the decks for a possible October general election. By doing so he hopes to nip the leadership challenge talk in the bud. No wonder that on the same day he engineered a reduction of interest rates

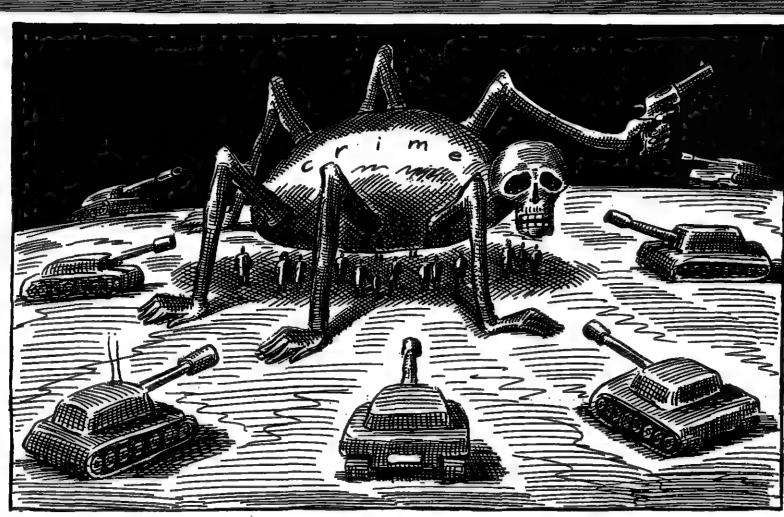
within hours. A cut of 0.25 per cent may be so small as to be virtually invisible, but it's the politics of the matter that count now. And no wonder, also on Thursday, that Mr Major suddenly made a massive concession to his Eurosceptics by agreeing to publish a White Paper on Europe later this year. Three moves like that mean that the threat must have been very, very serious indeed.

And if it was that serious now, then what will it be like if the polls go on telling the same tale of woe throughout the spring and if the Conservatives are clobbered in the May local elections? The question implies its own answer, though that does not guarantee that Mr Major will fail. His reputation as a party fixer has always been strong and has been enhanced by the revelation last month that Michael Heseltine was squared for the deputy prime ministership before last summer's leadership contest. There is a lot going on behind the closed doors at the moment, that much is certain.

Yet the consequences for Mr Major are that everything he says in public is read in two ways - at face value and, at a deeper level, for what it implies about the future of his party. Yesterday provided a classic example of that hall of mirrors. Mr Major went to Birmingham and launched a powerful but largely fantastic attack on the Maastricht social chapter. Who was all this aimed at? An Institute of Directors lunch? West Midlands floating voters who have heard it all a dozen times before? Or was the audience just Sir Richard Body, as the price of a vote in an uncertain future? It's a terrible thought. But it is what we have come to expect.

Stake doesn't

With the police adopting increasingly military-style tactics to combat the growing criminal classes, their war against crime is starting to take on a different, more menacing, meaning, says MARTIN WOOLLACOTT. Illustration by PETER TILL



The march of a martial law

ter subjects than crime and punish cult to understand. none so subject to competing political interpretation. Crime rips away our preten-sions to social harmony, undermines our sense of security, inflames and enrages us

like nothing else. Every poll shows that it stands higher on the list of ordinary peoples' worries than job loss, serious illness or injury in accidents. Experi enced, it brings with it fear, violation, tears of anger and desnair. Observed, it brings out the avenging theorist, aiming to identify enemies worse than the criminals those responsible for the causes of crime. The latest British report, according to which a third of young men are now involved in crime and, worse, likely to continue in it after 25, reinforces the impression that crime is rising on a world-wide basis in a puzzling and frightening way. fleeing the country not because of any political breakdown but because of mug-gings, carjacking, rapes, and

tts worst crime year ever with over 600 serious crimes a day, the fortification of middle class districts, now a familiar process all over the world, pro ceeds at rapid pace. In Delhi, Whole families are killed in brutal burglaries and estates are clubbing together to hire more guards, since the police are regarded as ineffective. In Rio de Janeiro, in December, hundred thousand rallled to protest against rising crime. In the United States, however, there is, supposedly, a different picture. In most large cities crime is down for the fourth year running. Policemen from many countries are beating a path to New York, where plunging crime figures led New York magazine to lead last year with an article headlined The End of Crime As We Know It". In fact, expert estimates of future crime in America show similar tenden cies to those which the British study illuminates. One American report, described by Janet Reno, the Attorney General, as "a road map of future crime" predicts a coming rise in crime driven by juveniles 2010, there will be a quarter of

which last year experienced a million arrests of children of this age for violent crimes. Given that America is an excessively violent society. with criminal problems far worse than those of most other countries, it is amazing that the world takes such notice of the American police and crim-inal justice system. Yet their influence is undoubtedly pervasive, perhaps in part be-cause of television glamorisation. It can be seen in the detail of uniform accounts ments, in jargon and slang. and in earlier organisational changes like the formation of armed reaction teams. The most critical of the changes to the American example, is that toward a more collective

style of policing. The world's model used to be Scotland Yard. What the Yard represented, in the ideal, was the inexorable closing in of justice on the individual criminal through precise reconstruction of his crime. It was about crime solving and not crime suppression. What the new model represents is not the long arm of the law but the army of the law. The most worrying thing about new directions in policing is that they have begun to take on a

quasi-military aspect. Dealing with crime may be beginning to be separated from the question of innocence or guilt ex-cept in a rather generalised way, and from detection and the investigation of particular offences. Some would go as far as to say it is beginning to be dealt with as if it were an insurgency. It is perhaps no accident that many senior police officers in the United One reporter covering William Bratton, the New York police commissioner, could not help but recall search and destroy operations in the South Vietnamese delta.

It is true that we always used in the past, in America and Europe, to refer to "the war against crime". That phrase, however, was really to do with the struggle against organised crime. What is emerging now is a military approach to the widespread disorder of the cities and the relatively small scale, if nev-ertheless vicious, crimes of in creasingly large numbers of young men. The solution of in-dividual crimes may now be neglected in order to identify. isolate and suppress the criminal "class" They will be con-stantly picked up, searched.

prosecuted for loitering, drinking, carrying weapons. Offences will often be generated in this way, and in others like stings of various kinds. The offenders will be imprisoned in large numbers. The latest statistics show that one in three young black males in America are in prison or under another form of crimi-

nal surveillance. The huge figures in Amerpling of the prison population since 1980 — but prison populations are also rising in Britain and many other countries. As for bigger crime, the thesis of a shift to a military approach is supported by moves in a number of countries, in-cluding Britain, to bring their espionage services into the crime fight. It would be too much to say that individual crime solving has been per-manently downgraded. But policing often now begins with the criminal rather than the crime, as is shown by the constant tales of citizens reporting crimes to police who make only minimal efforts to pursue them. If preventitive policing can be compared, in tendency if not in any complete way, with mili-

for disadvantaged areas, like those just announced in France, show some similar lties to the hearts and minds campaigns that used to accompany them.

The whole complex of crimi-

nals, police, private security forces, security equipment manufacturers, courts, and prisons is growing. It is an extraordinary industry that we should, at least occasionally, reflect on as one inter-related thing. Professor Lawrence M Friedman, of Stanford University, the author of Crime and Punishment in American History, wrote of his subject as "baffling and immense; fragmented into a thousand pieces; unwieldy, stubborn; hidden in dark places". His words sug-gest that, while there should be no easy dismissal of certain policing methods, the most important characteristic of an effective system of criminal ustice is that It should discriminate, never neglecting the individual and the specific. Seeing criminals as a class to be suppressed, tricked and out witted, particularly when that class may include a large pro-portion of the younger genera-tion, may sometimes be tactically justified. But, in any

quite sizzle So far, the East Midlands, it seems, isn't too fussed. The Concept may have political



David McKie

AVING launched the concept in distant Singapore, the Labour leader Tony Blair came on Thursday night to the marginal-rich East Midlands, giving local people the chance to ask a question you might have supposed had haunted them all this week: what exactly is this stakeholding this rough beast, its hour come round at last, which according to press reports slouches towards Westmin-

ster to be born? A thousand Labour enthusiasts were packed into the ssembly Rooms in Derby in a state of high excitement as the Leader swept into the hall, to the strains of somebody singing what some dissidents sometimes complain is his theme song: "Be soft, be sweet; but be discreet . . . " "My good-ness," he said, surveying them. "What a turnout!" Most of his 10-minute speech was devoted to the Concept, as was an opening barrage of ques-tions which could hardly have worked more perfectly had it been programmed, as some were certain it had been. An 18-year-old student, fresh into the party, had heard a lot about stakeholding: did it mean a return to the seventies and union power? (Certainly not, Blair assured him). A local businesman, employing 30 people: this stakeholding seems to make sense to me. Alison, once Edwina Currie's

constituency agent: she'd come over to Labour because she believed we could only succeed if we acknowledged we were all in society together. And Jill, who'd done 20 years as a Liberal Democrat but had now seen the light. Someone up in the gallery, eager to catch the chairman's eye but constantly missing it, kept shouting plaintively: "Comrade.." the only time, I think, that the word was used all night (Blair prefers "col-league"). In time, the chair

tried to call him. Silence. "He's

gone 'ome," his neighbours ex-plained. But by then the new-fangled beast had more or less slouched off the stage, except

when Blair smuggled it back in

moves into the lead on Feb-

his answers.

London by the throat, but gritty Derby is calmer. Won-dering, perhaps, what all the fuss is about, since, as defined by Blair, it sounds entirely familiar: like plain common sense and the sort of outlook on life which brought most of the people in this hall into the Labour Party. The stakeholding economy, Blair told them (he almost always used that term in preference to the sta-keholding society) essentially means every citizen having a stake in the nation's economic future. It means giving you the help you need to get on and

The core of the message is as old as the Labour Party. It is Labour inclusion, not Tory exclusion. It is Tawney's outrage that industrial society treats people as means rather than ends, and Neil Kinnock's 'enabling state". But it's also which should help attract quite close to much of

more people like Jill and Alithe Liberal creed as preached by Grimond and Steel; and a logical fruit of the Tories' One Nation Indeed, as the meeting developed, the audience seemed to be using One Nation and stakeholding

almost interchangeably.
There was little here, yet, of the more radical versions of stakeholding which you find in Will Hutton and David Marquand, whose attainment demands legislation rather than "changing the climate" in business and industry; and nothing at all to sustain the Central Office legend that stakeholding is simply a formula for returning power to the unions. Had Brian Mawhinney been there on Thursday, his complaint might rather have been: where's the beef? Or in this

case where's the stake? East Midlands Labour, though, was hugely entitused. The way they floated out of the hall recalled another election three decades ago, when the party at last felt certain of putting an end to years of Tory misrule, and when Harold Wilson preached a message much like Tony Blair's last night: we are on the verge of huge, revo-lutionary change, the fruit of new technology; we can only get it right if we liberate the talent, your talent, that the Tories prefer to lock up.

New Labour in the Assembly Rooms loved every word. What a shame that two of the county's MPs — Bolsover's Skinner and Chesterfield's Benn - were unable to make

Smallweed

burglaries. In Mexico City.



BIZARRE dispute broke out last weekend over a speech which Michael Heseltine may or may not have made to a Tory seminar. Central Office put out the speech with the standard rubric ---

'speaking at a Central Office seminar, the First Secretary of State, Deputy Prime Minister, and Fading White Hope of Conserva-tism said . . . ", or whatever But Labour claimed spies had told it that the words had never been spoken. It's a curious thing that

we in the media think a politician's outbarst is somehow disqualified if we don't know where it occurred. Yet Michael Heseltine's thoughts are surely no less Michael Heseltine's thoughts if they are mut-tered into his shaving mirror. Were reports of a speech by Demosthenes disregarded if they failed to contain the preamble: "speaking in the Pelopon-

nese . .'"? An old parliamen tary story records how a Labour member for some where like Darlington, disinclined to mingle more than he had to with his local party but unwilling to tell a last," she must have en-

straight lie, would put out texts which said: "Mr Thingy, MP, speaking in Darlington . . . "He would then travel up to Darlington in a first class carriage would walk to the end of the platform; would produce his text from his pocket: and would then mutter it into the cold Darlingtonian air. After which he'd catch the train back to London.

ORMER Conservative Party treasurer Alistair McAlpine is a friend of Fergie; in which capacity, he analysed the duchess's plight in Thursday's Daily Telegraph. "H situation in general," he wrote "is entirely the result of her own actions. She must take responsibility

and seek a solution." How relieved she must have been to find such wise counsel set out for free in a national newspaper! "At

thused to her children. servants and dogs, "we are out of the wood. I know what I have to do. I must seek

Still, you can't dispute the force of what Alistair wrote in the previous paragraph: What she needs is not so much financial advice, but someone with a few millions to spare.

OT CONTENT with taking parliamentary Question Time to Edinburgh for the first time since 1707 and bullying the Cabinet into abstaining on the Extra Daylight Bill, the Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth stands accused of corrupting his own civil

service. He's accused of besmirching the neutrality of the 27strong Scottish Office Information Directorate (posh for press office) by including a blatantly political slogan in a speech to Glasgow

which the press office hastily amended when the Dundee Courier's man pointed out the crime.

The text referred to

Labour's so-called Tartan

tary sweeps, subsidy schemes

Tax and predicted that "nae jobs, not new jobs" would be the result — blood-curdling Gaelic patois currently being used in a Tory poster campaign north of the border. Aghast MPs like Labour's George Robertso and the SNP's Alex Salmond. point out that Forsyth's press chief, Liz Drummond, first deleted the offending phrase and then apologised to the secre tary of state "for the embarrassment caused by this error". Surely they say, it was Forsyth's own error. since he had plainly ap-

proved a phrase which was

— as literate Scots put it — outwith the guidelines. The

McWords scandal has now

gone to match referee Sir

Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, for his perusal.

longer run, it is bad strategy.

PECTACLES one Swould love to have wit-nessed: an occasional Smallweed series.
"We over-egged the pudding and then slammed on the brakes too hard by joining the ERM straitjacket": Conservative MP John Butcher in Commons debate

on the **Finance Bill**.

THE LEADING figure in British Roman Catholicism, one had always supposed, is Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster. But some doubt is cast on this theory by the annual calendar of events published by the Catholic organ the Tablet, where he's badly upstaged by Fathers Michael Walsh (Salford) and Richard Moth (Southwark). Both get off to a quiet start, not figuring at all throughout January. Moth

ruary 24, organising a rite of election at St George's Cathedral, but Walsh draws level just two days later by staging a bishops' meeting in Leeds. Walsh strikes again on March 24 (Lancashire church leaders' meeting) but Moth catches up at the end of the month as organiser of a diocesan Mass. Things hot up in May with a burst of Moths on the

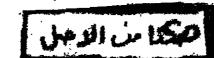
6th, 10th and 11th; a riposte by Walsh with a three-day pilgrimage to Walsingham; but another three Moth events on the 23rd, 27th and 29th.

June is undoubtedly Walsh's, with three listed engagements bringing the score to 10-8 in Moth's favour. July is frantic, with both men in regular action, though the Michael Walsh who delivers a keynote speech at Leeds University on July 19-21 appears to be a different Walsh from

Moth's challenger. Honours Moin's chauenger. Honours then remain roughly even for a while. But as the nights lengthen, the leaves turn to russet and gold, and fam-iliar birds filt off to more clement climes, Moth comes into his element. Three engagements in December, to none for Walsh, bring him out as clear overall winner by 21 to 12.

Both men are in danger of being upstaged however, by a mere layman, Michael Orbell, with a score of 16. Father Walsh should be warned that one of the upstart's functions takes place in Salford.

WE MUST re-establish respect for law and order and above all for the sanctity of human life. I believe this means having back the death per E MUST re-establish bringing back the death penalty for murder — Election address of the UK Independence Party candidate at the Hemsworth byelection.



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WORRY ABOUT THE

Moral mantras in our schools

HE POLITICAL correctness of Dr Tait is far more dangerous than that of the teachers who teach about race, gender and class to their children. He sings his mantras that government ministers wish to hear. He is not concerned with distinguishing right from wrong.

If he was politically more sin-cere than correct, he would know that raising race, gender and class issues does not detract from morality and its teaching. It is because it is immoral to practise racism, to downgrade and harrass women, or to cut back on the welfare state, that teachers got involved with the struggles of

race, gender and class.
There must be many reasons why some children are impervious to a moral code of conduct. I can suggest two which Dr Tait might like to think about. One is the crass and self-Ish individualistic materialism that was symbolised by that great British heroine, Margaret Thatcher, who said that society did not matter. The second is the mind-boggling arrogance of the pundits of the Western and Eurocentric tradition who insist that they have little to learn from ancient non-

European cultures. If they showed a little humility they may find out the skills by which some of those in authority in non-European cul-tures are able to maintain a coherent and ethical code of conduct among their young. Burjor Avari. Principal Lecturer. Multicultural Education, Manchester Metropolitan

University.

NDEED, it is vitally impor-tant that moral values schools (Teaching moral values, Leader, January 16). It is right to congratulate the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) on the initiative it has taken. It is crucial, however, to recall the context of social, ethnic and gender in-equality within which such initiatives take their course, and in which moral values are — or are not — taught and caught. In recent years, inequality has grown in Britain faster and

deeper than in almost any other industrialised country. Almost a third of all children in British schools now live in pov erty, as internationally de and measured. The recent increases have disproportion-ately affected black and ethnic minority communities, and other communities in urban

Yet all too often at occasions such as this week's major SCAA conference, the main platform speakers remain silent on the implications of racial and social injustice for moral education, even when — or especially when — they are questioned on this topic by members of the audience. On political and social iss

which are controversial, teachers need and deserve imaginative, intelligent and inspiring leadership from national bodies such as SCAA. The new proposed forum on values in education is certainly to be welcomed. However, if it were to be timorous or evasive on issues of justice in wider society, it would be widely — and justifiably — held in contempt. Robin Richardson.

Director, The Runnymede Trust, 11 Princelet Street, London El 6QH.

OUR leader introduces the acutely practical ped agogic theorem: "If God approves of actions because they themselves are morally right, God is logically dispens able". But any source of moral ity is therefore logically dispensable, and morality is simply a word-game. So moral education, even when it is about anti-racism, pacifism or rape, amounts to saying to young people: "You might like o join in this game; if you do, these are the rules; but of

course, you don't have to play Dr Tate seems to be right. Even in a secular society that wants to educate its children in morality, God is necessary until something better comes along. As yet, it has not. Richard Wilkins. General Secretary. Association of Christian Teachers. 94a London Road,

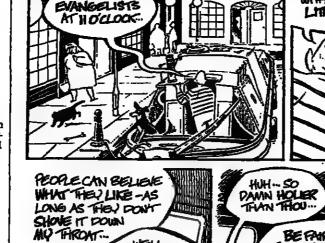
St Albans, Herris ALJ 1NX.

Questions for a minister of Wales

VE are witnessing a delib-erate attempt by Tory business managers in the Secretary, and by winning places in the ballot are exclud-House of Commons to avoid the Secretary of State for Wales having to respond to those issues which Welsh constituency MPs wish to raise at Question Time. Welsh Office questions take place only once a month for 40 minutes. Subjects are balloted, with some 30 questions being so selected. Normally, therefore, there is a reasonable chance for the 32 Weish Opposition MPs to get

their question balloted. However, increasingly over recent months English constituency MPs are pouring their names into this ballot, putting down questions which ing Weish MPs from being able to choose questions on matters of importance to them and their constituents. On Monday January 22, of

no fewer than 16 are from English constituency MPs. I have no doubt that this ploy. to avoid the Secretary of State for Wales having to answer questions from Welsh MPs, is being deliberately orchestrated by the Government's business managers. Dafydd Wigley MP. President, Plaid Cymru. House of Commons, London SW1A DAA.



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VERY, VERY BUSY!

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SIR- PO YOU EVER

WORRY ABOUT THE

STATE OF THE WORLD?

1 POLITELY

drug services have been say-

ing for some time. Drug use has become firmly embedded

in the culture of a growing

The law seems to have little deterrent impact, we have a

swathe of young people bia-tantly disregarding what the

law expects them to do. As they grow into adulthood, and

into parenting, will they con-tinue with their behaviour, at-

titudes and values? It is also

clear that the law is used in-

creasing number of people. Drug offences grew by 25 per cent in 1994. Of these, 90 per

cent were possession cases,

It is time to undertake a

comprehensive review into

how effective the law is in both

preventing drug use and pun-

drugs. With growing numbers

also a growth in the minority

becoming problem drug users We therefore also need a new

level of treatment, care, educa-tion and prevention services.

drive to secure an effective

Roger Howard. Chief Executive, Standing Conference on

Drug Abuse, 32-36 Loman Street,

London SET OEE.

ishing those who use illicit .

of young drug users there is

creasingly to punish an in-

number of young people.

PECLINED-THEY







My life of crime and academia

BE FAIR JOSH-ITS FART

OF THE JOB

YOUR Leader (A growing life of crime, January 19) criticises "academics and their cavears" but this postgraduate idds no caveata to the statement that unemployment is not the cause of (property) crime so much as is the percep-

THAT'S WHERE

THEY'D HAVE THE LIKES OF US-

tion of inequity. Crime began for me with the 1988 Social Security Act. This reduced income support payments for the under-25s and property crime was the alternative I chose (aged 22) when a year's employment came to an end. For those aged 17, Income Support was removed alto-gether by the Act and for those aged between 18 and 25, who are registered unemployed, the morality/legality of taking short-term cash in-hand work to occasionally supplement the giro becomes blurred (as it does with many individuals on

expense accounts).
Providing legal employment opportunities to all does not provide a full answer to property crime. Though it has been claimed that "were unemploy-ment to be reduced by half, it would be accompanied by a decline in property crime of ap-proximately 10 per cent", this simplistic formula, applied to 4 million unemployed, yields 67 per cent of the present property crime rate, even if unemploy-ment were reduced to 250,000.

ponse to its own research has been to state that: "It is not realistic to imagine that national economic policy will be determined even in part by its implication for crime".

My humble opinion as parttime worker, turned criminal, turned academic is that it should be central to the role of government to follow an economic policy which strives for a distribution of resources that serves a greater purpose than the re-election of the governing party. Should not the vary es-sence of a government's role be to amend perceived injustices and to foster a universal sense of equity of resource utilisa-tion? To the extent that such a policy aim was achievable, it would be productive of a lower

rate of property crime. Paid work is not the only remedy to the perception of in-equity. My own "rehabilitation" was enacted with the assistance of an educational department in prison and help from the probation service in the (almost universal) period of unemployment (plus despair) following many months in cus tody. Prison education departments and probation work are inal justice system most under fireat by recent cuts. Paul Crosland. Postgraduate criminologist,

YOUR report on young of-fenders, crime and unemployment confirms the experience of those of us working inthe criminal justice system. The destruction of employment for whole communities and the advocacy of an economic policy driven by supply side economic dogma has cre-

ated a social environment that is highly conductive to crime.
What is particularly worrying about the Government's complacency with regard to this matter is that, although we may be moving out of: recession, those jobs that are created do not absorb those who have been unemployed for long periods of time and who are effectively marginaties and rewards of a con-

sumer society. If we are seriously to address this problem, rather than accepting the present policy that offenders are a risk that can best be dealt with by locking them up at considerable expense to the taxpayer, we need policies that recog nise that pro-social behaviour is facilitated by policies that include people rather than excluding them. Mark Oldfield.

Research Officer. Kent Probation Service, 58 College Road, Maidstone ME15 68J.

| Why the Sky is not the limit for the nation's TV viewers HR Home Office report demonstrates what many

DAVID Elstein, Head of Programming at BSkyB, has a point (Free the skies for sport, January 18): politicians need to be fair to the sports bodies and to the subscription channels. But to be fair to the public, they have to balance those needs against the interests of the nation at large, who regard events like football cup finals and the Wimbledon finals as part of the national heritage. It seems perfectly proper and democratic that these events should be protected for the population at large to enjoy on free-to-air talavision services.

Mr Elstein is right to say that the BBC has an income of £1.7 billion. We do, but we ed to spread that £1.7 hillion across five radio networks, two television networks and regional services, providing original, quality programming in drama, entertainment, music, arts, children's programmes, education, and news and information — as well as sport. That is what our licence-payers

want us to do. It is disingenuous of Mr El-stein to suggest that the BBC is wrong to spend the televi-sion licence fee on radio services. He forgets that the BBC began as a radio broadcaster and that our new Charter. supported by all political parties, requires us to continue all current services. Will Wyatt. Managing Director, BBC Television. Wood Lane. London W127RJ.

SHORTLY after taking my customary lunch yesterday at Le Caprice, I was quietly enjoying a Mars Bar or two when I came across your scurrilous story (Artyfacts, Review, January 19) suggesting that certain episodes of A History of British Art have had to be reshot for continuity reasons owing to the steady expansion of my waistline during the time the series has been in production. This is quite false. Your correspondent must have confused the word "waistline with the word "argument". It is true that I have got a little larger since giving up smoking just over a year ago and one or two of my crueller colleagues have been known to refer to me as Andrew Gra-ham-Dumpling. But I promise you (and all television licence fee payers) that re-shoots for reasons of fatness have not been necessary. Andrew Graham-Dixon. Writer and presenter, A History of British Art, **BBC Television Centre**,

Wood Lane, London W127RJ.

A rearguard action for all victims of violence

A STHE solicitor of Donna Maguire I was surprised to read your reference (January 18) to Ms Maguire and I fighting a "rearguard action" following the award to her of £13,525. As you rightly pointed out that I viewed the criticism of the award as "hysterical", it might have been more informative if you had explained my reasons for using such a word.

Firstly, the case was heard before an extremely experi-enced and respected High Court judge and the award was made because it was proved that the claim was genuine. Secondly, that is the function of a judge in a civil court in a democratic society. He

hears the evidence in open

court and if the claim is genu-

ine he awards the appropriate measure of damages. He fulfils this role impartially and free from political influence or considerations.

Thirdly, as a solicitor, I

have, over many years, acted on numerous occasions for the bereaved and other victims of violence. I agree that the amounts of compensation of fered to, and often received by, such victims, especially the be reaved — eg the family of Tim Parry — is woefully

I note that David Wilshire, the Conservative MP for Spelthorne, has tabled a Commons motion calling on the Government to end the "un-fairness of current compensa tion schemes", and that he has

pointed out that the Parry fam-ily only received £7,500. Did he table any such motion when Michael Howard was pressing ahead with his recent plans to reduce the amount payable to the victims of violence? I seem to recall that Mr Howard was only pre vented from doing this by the

Leo White. 43-45 Monaghan Street, Newry, Co Down, Northern Ireland, BT35 5AY.

Letters to the Editor may be fexed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. We may edit them for clarity and

A Country Diary

Lancaster University.

NORTH PEMBROKESHIRE: | peanuts are given some at-Fieldfares and redwings were the forerunners of the cold snap. All holly trees were stripped within three days. The invaders moved on, gathering up all the smaller groups which had been foraging in the hawthorns for weeks. But, as the cold settled in, two indignant male blackcap warblers ap-peared at the bird table. In the summer I hear, but rarely see, these birds, so it was a real pleasure to watch them. They are chubby with light grey underparts, fawn wings and their unmistakea-ble black cap above an insect-

tention, but often their main activity seems to be terroris-ing smaller birds. The bird table has strips of wood sticking out from each corner, connected with wire to repel cats. A blackcap will perch on the wood, all hunched up and fluffed out. It hurtles itself towards any

other small bird that appears

— tits, sparrows, robins, chaffinches, which immedi-ately flee. Only starlings and ackdaws quail the warblers. Nuthatches they ignore. Another over-wintering visitor, a little egret, is daintily step-ping through the mud at the Nevern estuary. It keeps itself aloof from company mak-

ing the flocks of calling curlews appear a little loud, whilst the scramble of blackheaded river gulls are crude in comparison. The teal. probably headed for western Siberia in the spring, try to remain apart, but they're surrounded by mallards. Red shanks continue stabbing into the mud in some of the small creeks and inlets. In the fast-flowing, river little grebes startle with bouncy dives and jaunty re-surfachigh in an ash tree, sang of its spring intentions. A flock of long-tailed tits came by on low willow scrub. You see so

ter. AUDREY INSCH

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Great debate stakes a claim on tomorrow



Martin Kettle,

HAT did you do in the great stake holding debate of 1996, daddy? Well, I take the confident view that at last here is a serious opportunity to develop the most real-istic means of replacing Thatcherite possessive individualism with an alternative political economy, commanding electoral credi-

bility. The ideas set out by

Tony Blair in Singapore have

detonated a debate on a scale

which he did not anticipate.

grown-up politics should be. There's only one problem, and it's a big one. We're about

to have a general election. Blair may want a debate, but he wants to win the election even more. That is what he's there for. Nevertheless, the imperative of debate and the Imperative of electoral discipline are converging on a single point. One of them will have to give. And you don't have to be Stephen Hawking to work out which. This accounts for an ambiv

alent quality in the stakehold-ing debate. The argument is up and running, but, in one important sense, it isn't really a debate at all. It's a launched and irrevocable New Labour commitment. Blair isn't putting some ideas on the table and seeing what the rest of us make of them - although for a lot of people that is an important effect of his Singapore speech. He's saying that this is how he proposes that it is going to be, and because he's the leader of a political party run-ning up to an election cam-paign, he can't afford to alter that judgment.

This isn't anyone's fault and it isn't anyone's conspiracy. It is simply the way things are. The reality for Blair, unexpectedly taking over the party two years into a parliament, was that he had to compress the five years allowed to most new leaders into the three that were available. Year one was about changing the party focused on the reform of Clause 4. Year two is about giving the party something to stand for in the country. Year

As things are turning out, however, years two and three are being squeezed together.
The result is that Labour is giving birth to its big idea at the same time as it is squaring up on the centre-ground for an election it cannot afford to lose. In such a squeeze, the

three is for winning an

imperatives of the election will inevitably win out. The question which Labour

eating beak. With few in-sects about, apples and

needs to answer, therefore, is what happens to the incom-plete debate? For the imperatives of the election do not make the debate less relevant or important, merely less immediate. Labour will still need to have a coherent project after the election. Indeed, assuming Labour wins the election, the need will be greater than ever afterwards.

Labour must therefore do two things. First, it must find the best ways in the circumstances of keeping some sort of debate and exchange going, in spite of the pressure of the election. Second, it must acknowledge now that this is likely to be unfinished business after the election and that there must be means of sus-taining the debate even after Blair and his ministers become daily distracted by the

to devise ways of sustaining a constructive but real debate within civil society about the Labour government even while that government is in

office. The best way of ensuring that those difficulties are minimised is to acknowledge the necessity of the debate in the first place. Blair is personally good at that. But Labour — closed policy forums and all — is not.

Nor, in spades, is British political and governmental cul-ture. Look at the fuss this week when Alistair Burt went freelance and wrote a letter to the Times criticising Lady Thatcher. The reflex of the cul-ture was not that he had said something that the Conservative Party needs to think about, but that it was a sign of malaise for a junior minister to write a non-propaganda let-

ter to the papers. I don't know whether Blair has given much thought to pressures of government.
The difficulty, inevitably, is low to keep useful debate going in his party, and to mainhim will be to suppress it. He therefore needs to have a preemptive strategy in place which includes the government as a whole, and minis-ters as individuals, within a broader framework of con-tinuing debate about the party's direction. This means loosening the restraints which parties natu-

tain dialogue with it when he

know that all the pressures on

is in government. But I do

rally expect at election time. It means encouraging senior fig-ures to put ideas forward. It means allowing them to disagree in public without pun-ishment. It means thinking in new ways about collective responsibility. It means recognising that in the real world theory and practice will go on trampling on one another's toes. It's difficult, But the debate which Blair has started about getting the nation back together is too important to stop for the election — or even

afterwards.

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Marie Ma Marie Ma

Our special correspondent

AY JOHNSON WAS ttacked with a knife in New York city on the same night that Andy Warhol was shot. That was in 1968. When he recovered, Warhol retreated from the experiments of the Factory. Ray Johnson, equally traumatised, moved from Manhattan to suburban Long Island.

From there he mailed ironic collages and mysterious jokes to hundreds of correspondents ranging from famous artists to crazy outsiders. He called his network of pen friends the New York Correspondence School. mail art made him a cult fig-ure. Today it is claimed as a forerunner of e-mail art. But Johnson didn't stick around to surf the Net. On the evening of January 13 last year he drowned himself off Long

The death of the artist brought him fame. Within months, Ray Johnson was feted in Manhattan. His works cropped up in galleries all over Solio and the Upper East Side. While some obituaries empha sised his presence at the birth of pop art, others sought to ce him in the newer contex of cyberspace. "Where better to pay tribute to Ray Johnson, video artist Nam June Paik asked in Artforum, "than on

But this story is not set in cyberspace. This is a New York. story. Řay Johnson's postal network, even after he moved to Long Island, was emphatically the New York Correspondence School.

It originated in the icono-clastic New York art scene of the early sixtles. Johnson's early mail art gained him such a strong underground reputation that when he had his first one-man show in 1965, the New York Times hailed "the most lamous unknown artist". But he was never able, or never wanted, to parlay cult significance into SoHo sales. By 1980, the most famous unknown artist was taking an advertisement in the New York Times to announce "Ray Johnson-

/ nothing/ no gallery."
"This neo-Dada", Duchamp once wrote, "which they call. pop art . . . is an easy way out, and lives on what Dada did." Plenty of people since have agreed that New York artists methods of Dada but betrayed its spirit.

Ray Johnson's life and work reveal a much more subversive side to pop. His collag combine a love of the ready-made with a sixties lightness of touch. But he certainly cannot be accused of betraving Dada's radical spirit. By diffus ing his works through the US Mail he called their very status as art into question. Nor was mail art (at least during his

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marketplace in the that way Duchamp's readymades eventually were.

The complete corpus of Johnson's art may always elude critics and compilers of catalogues. Mail art ends up all over the place and is not neces sarily valued by its recipients. No wonder he once called an exhibition Evaporations By Ray Johnson. No wonder, either, that his more legitimate works are easier to find in New York galleries than his mail-ings. His collages from the fif-ties and sixties exult in the beauty of the ready-made, ambrace the exotic detritus of everyday life. They seem like secret records of an intense exstence. Like those of Robert Rauschenberg, a contempo-rary at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, John son's collages are intensely evocative of a particular time

and place. At Black Mountain College both artists learned about Dada from John Cage. Rauschenberg said he wanted to act in the gap between art and life: Asked to paint a portrait of Iris Clert he replied with a tele-gram which stated: "This is a portrait of Iris Clert if I say so." John Cage interpreted Dada as an aesthetic of chance. In Cage's music, accident has as much aesthetic value as de-sign. Rauschenberg and Johnon listened to the music of chance in their collages.

Ray Johnson chanced even more when he started doing mail art. Every time Johnson sent out a mailing — and be sent out thousands — he ex-

ARTIST Mark Pawson says: "I still have faith in the postal system." Mail art

is very much alive. The

arrival of the Internet has

excited artists, but most at-

art have disappointed. The

interest and practical frus-tration has in fact stimu-

lated new interest in mall art. Mark Pawson is quick

to acknowledge Ray John-

son's influence. He founded

the Aggressive School Of

Correspondence Art with

dence school in mind. Paw-

son, who values the element

of chance in mail art, began

doing mail art as a teenager and still places it at the

heart of his activities. His

mailines include a series of

stamped postcards lament-

ing repeated thefts of his bl-cycle front wheel. "Some

pastard stole the front

wheel of my bicycle." com-

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plains the Bicycle Wheel

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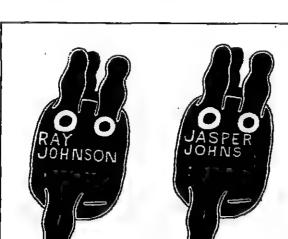
We're in

the State

the New York Correspon-

combination of conceptual

tempts at interactive on-line



Pop artist Jim Rosenquist gets the message (top). Johnson's trademark bunny is just recognisable (left) in one of a series sent to Clive Philpott, then librarian at New York's Museum of Modern Art; and (right) junk artist's impres sion of Andy Warhol prinating

osed his art to surprise and nazard. Would it be recogised and cherished as an aesthetic creation, or thrown away like insolicited correspondence? Would it oven be delivered?

"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night," says the inscription on the New York General Post Office building opposite Madison Square Gardens, "stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds". Ray Johnson acted as if this motto were an accurate description of the US Mail: as if mailmen were heroic messengers tra-versing the city to bring his art to an eager populace. His Uto-

however, as a mail art joke.

Recipients returned denials

of guilt and pictures of bicy-

change of pictures and jokes

playing". Jessica Voorsanger's cir-

cle of correspondents is more elevated than Paw-

son's. It includes Bill Clin-

ton, Priscilla Presley and

letters to celebrities invit-

ing some response. When she sent a request via her

father for birthday

Clive Anderson, Voorsanger makes art about being a fan. This has included sending

les. For Pawson the ex-

by mail is "a way of

pian attitude to New York's postal system was sincere and profound. The New York Cor-respondence School was the name of his postal Utopia.

Johnson's friends recall how in the early sixties they would pend evenings out in Manhattan with the artist, exploring the city's pleasures and mysteries at sites ranging from gay bars to Bellevue Hospital, then find his work waiting in the mail box when they got home. Mail art from Ray Johnson could mean a picture of a snake or a cup of coffee, or a Xerox, or a photomontage. It was mail art because he said so. By giving his postal network a quasi-

Royston du Mourier's

offering — a Crunchile

negatives, all attached to a

postcard — wa

Postoards 94

part of

cards from famous people she got a card from Presi-

dent Clinton but a refusal

from John Major's office.

Voorsanger's letters evoke

the pain of fandom. "One of

the most tragic things to be," she says, "is a fan who is

You're the speck of dust that they don't want to get near."

The fan letter is the map of

an unbridgeable distance. Louise Baker became in-

terested in mail art because

of its "ephemeral quality".

Every January since 1991 she has curated a mail art

exhibition at the Brewhou

obsessed by somebody.

wrapper, place

reinforced this act of naming. In the same breath, however, he introduced a note of selfmockery. The New York Correspondence School sounds like some seedy postal college with an office near Times Square. Then again, it may imply genuine didacticism, a esson from New York.

institutional identity, Johnson

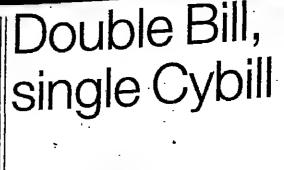
Perhaps a lesson in how to nake an art form of everyday life. When Ray Johnson announced that the absolutely or dinary act of posting a letter would henceforth be art, he laid down a challenge. Recipients of his correspondence were given the chance to see

A delivery of post modernism: mail art today in Taunton. Artists are invited to send postcards which reflect personal or public events in the past

> In keeping with the openness of mail art, all works that meet the criteria of size and theme are exhibited. There's something about a small postcard." she says. "something you receive through the post. When artists send a postcard they feel less need to assign it a

value.' This enthuslasm for mall art is part of a wider readiness by British artists in the 1990s to appropriate any kind of artefact or action as art. In short, the Dadaist flame that was rekindled in New York in the early sixties burns brightly in contemporary Britain.

Postcards 1995 is at the Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre, Somerset till Feb 2. # 01823-274608. Mark Puerson's multiples can be seen at Workfortheystodo



Television

Stuart Jeffries

FTHERE'S one rule of police drama, it's that when officers say they're looking forward to walking the Pennine Way on a forthcoming holiday, they won't make it to the closing credits, let alone into their hiking boots. Kathy Marshall didn't get as far as the first commercial break before they were dragging her body from the Thames. "Ten days, four hour and 32 minutes and I'll be on leave," she smiled at the out-set. Was there ever born a

more naive TV copper?
But The Bill (TTV) wasn't so much a police drama as a homage to every stock storyline and every stock character of every police drama you've ever seen. True, none of it was dressed up with hand-held cameras or stylised editing. but don't let its downbeat quasi-realism fool you: by Sir Robert Peel, this was as realis-tic as NYPD Blue.

Down at the boozer, that most stereotypical of stock characters, the insouciant villain's missus, all mouth and nail varnish, was toasting her vicious husband's escape from the slammer with champagne "I've been married 15 years and for more than half that he's been inside." said Helen Brodie, between heartfelt

beauty in junk mail.

Mail art owes something to Andy Warhol. Some of Ray

start, were made at his famous friend's expense. The Warho-lian idea of a banalised fame —

available to everyone but only

for 15 minutes — was echoed in Johnson's postal network. For in the world of mail art, there

really were no barriers be-

tween the famous and the un-

known. Johnson wrote to them all. implicitly urging them to write to each other. His mail-ings usually came with a

request to pass a message or montage on to someone else in the New York Correspondence

School But whereas Warhol really did worship famous

people, mail art completely ne

gated every kind of social dis-

tinction. Johnson portrayed the revered painter Willem d

Rooning as a bunny rabbit. In 1984, joking about the way Warhol made his Oxidation

Paintings, he mailed a picture of "Andy Warhol Urinating" to a mutual friend. He made War-bol a featureless phallic crea-

ture with two penises, both

ower of Dada among New

York pop artists. His carica-tures of de Kooning and War-

hol, like Duchamp's defaced

reproduction of the Mona Liss

original Dadaists were deeply

childish. The very word "Dada" was infantilist. Mall

art too is child's play. At the

Rauschenberg never was.

same time, Johnson was fully a pop artist in a way Robert

Johnson adored pop icons. El-vis appeared in his work very

he did a series of works related to actress Shelley Duvall.

was popular culture, the locus of a million desires and frus-

trations. "Return To Sender"

songs of the period harped end

lessly on the love letter. John-son sent his love letters to the

But the love letter's theme I

absence, in 1967 the Velvet

Gift, a savage parody of the

love letter pop song in which a

young man mails himself to his

absent sweetheart. Eager to

open the mysterious parcel,

him apart. The lover in this

the poetics of absence. Ver-

she takes a saw to it and hacks

song has fuiled to understand

meer's paintings of young mer and women reading letters are

explicitly concerned not only

physical space between writer

and reader. The Woman In Blue Reading A Letter stands

before a map hanging on the

wall. The letter, like the map.

is a representation of distance.

Ray Johnson's mail art is a map of his unrequited love for

the city of New York.

with absence but with the

"Hev Mr Postman" - pop

entire city of New York.

Above all the US Mail itself

y. More idiosyncratically

spraying the ground.

Johnson was the purest fol-

Johnson's best jokes, for a

swigs of Moët. You didn't need a PhD in criminology or, indeed, any lesser accomplishments, to put Jim Brodie in the frame for Marshall's murder. But for most of the rest of this hour-long special, Sun Hill CID failed to do that: as much as Marshall, they seemed unfa-miliar with the basic logic of television detective work. All they could do was bully the usual suspects and grieve the loss of their colleague. Bully-ing and grieving, those typical

responses of TV coppers when one of their own has been

If there was one thing that delayed one's fast-forwarding attention, it was the bizarre topography of London that The Bill inhabits. It is apparently set in east London, but much of its location work is shot in south-west London. Add to this the baffling references in the script ("He saw him drive off down Hoxton Road" — but there is no Hoxton Road in London, let alone in the Dock-lands where most of the loca-tion work for this episode was confusingly done), and you feel you are consistently presented with an unreal city, a simulacrum of London, one that, as it unravels its identity to the viewer, constantly conflicts

with the real city. If The Bill relied too much on stock characters. Cybill (C4) relied too little on its stock bitchy dipso sidekick. Mary-ann (Christine Baranski) is the one who has the lines and the comic panache that the others in this fairly feeble sit-com are striving for. When naive Cybill (Cybill Shepherd) complains about all the back-stabbing and scheming in her job, and asks: "Isn't it enough to be a good actor?", Mar-yann's immediate response is to call over the waiter: "Til have another cappuccino, and would you bring my friend a

Northern Lights (BBC2) was made up of three short films from Northern Ireland. The best was John Forte's incl-sively photographed and writ-ten Skin Tight, about an Or-ange drum-maker who buys a pedigree goat he plans to slaughter for its special skin. But problems starts when the goat stope eating: "She's prob-ably gone on hunger strike — I always thought she looked a bit Fenian." Its nicely-observed sectarian humour almost served to banish from memory the witlessness of French and Saunders's recent anti-Irish diatribe.

Reviews

DANCE

Shame The Place

MMA DIAMOND is the lat-est Merce Cunningham dancer to turn choreographer, and as her new work, Shame, Merce clone nor a rebel with angry scores to settle. The piece is performed in The Places season of new choreography, Resolution. It has a psychological theme, which has never interested Cunningham, and a more fluidly expressive style. But her movement has a Cunningham-influenced clarity and wit that make it sophis-

ticated dance. Shame is a nest double-take on the traditional love duet Which takes its cue from Milan Kundera's statement that "the transformation of a man from subject to object is experienced as shame". As Diamond and her partner William Kemp dance through the rise and fall of an affair, so a naked couple mirror their emotions in stark

poses of yearning, love and ction. Their ordinary hodies look inarticulate and exposed — they seem to be the couple's vulnerable egos. The dance, meanwhile, be-gins with confident invention,

as Diamond finds dozens of new variations on the pas de deux — arms that caress, feet that tease, legs that swing on a the couple get close it's the naked pair, locked in a sweetly unselfconscious embrace, who eem more at ease than the dancers. And as the relationship turns sour, the dance becomes dark and perverse. Diamond hangs her neck different thigh and yearns against his turned back. When he abandons her, she rhythmically dashes her head towards the floor while her naked alter ego tries to cover her body in a rush of shame.

Diamond's work is not only an intriguingly succinct dance drama it also raises sharp Issues about bodies and nudity, self-consciousness and power.

Judith Mackrell

CLASSICAL Bruckner

Barbican/Radio 3

OTHE list of its symphony cycles, presented with great success over the years -Mahler, Sibelius and Vaughan Williams among them — the LSO now adds Bruckner. To mark the Bruckner centenary, between now and mid-April at the Barbican, 10 of Bruckner's massive symphonies will be presented alongside Mozart symphonies and concertos, with Sir Colin Davis conducting most of the

Amazingly this is the first time that London has had such a Bruckner series, and the opening concert promised much, if not finally the full vision one was hoping for. Maybe it was wrong to start at the end with the unfinished

Ninth Symphony. Sir Colin is above all a tough Brucknerian, and the massive half-hour span of the first movement was unrelenting in its power and concentration.

For him, as with Klemperer, there was no compromise over the rugged, slab-like architec-ture. Where others coax and mould structure and phrase, Sir Colin preferred a more direct approach, while securing the most refined playing from the orchestra.

The Scherzo was uncompromising, too, thrust home strongly, with little relaxation over dancing rhythms, but when it came to the final Adagio — almost as expansive as the first movement directness and clarity took away the mystery. This movement should register as a culminating vision but, despite the sublime sounds, it finally left one earth-bound.

Edward Greenfield

Radio Lyn Gardner

MES WHALE has not been having a good week on Talk Radio UK. Some students have been stalking Whale over the airwaves breaking out in bleats every time they manage to get on the air. On Thursday night I thought I had accidentally

tuned into Farming Today. Earlier in the week, there was that little incident when Whale told a small-hours caller from Liverpool that if he was up so late he must be up to no good. Merseyside was not nest pleased

By Tuesday night Whale was backtracking like mad. having obviously spent the day on a geographical-correct ness course. Merseyside was now a shining jewel, its citi-

zens paragons, and caller after caller was treated to paeans of the United Kingdom. On Thursday night he got quite carried away and dedicated the entire programme to

Hartlepool Talk Radio UK, the selfstyled "Voice of the Nation", is the station that decided it might like to keep its licence a little longer so booted out Caesar the Geezer and stopped trading insults with its callers for discussions about trading stamps.

Nowadays you will find a slightly used Brillo pad rather more abrasive than a Talk Radio UK topical phone-in. Callers are treated with the polite but cautious friendliness cultivated by trainee liontamers for their new charges.

It is a cliché that like people who answer personal advertisements those that call any phone-in apart from Radio 4's Any Answers are either rav-

Whale fellow hell met ing lunatics or saloon-bar bores. A week listening to Talk Radio UK suggests that the average caller is no more of a sadster than the average corre spondent to the Guardian's let-

ter pages. They just have a

is likely to come straight from

the heart and directly from ex-

wanton disregard for mobile-telephone bills. At its worst, Talk Radio UK s relentlessly tabloid (it rates the Jacko-Presley divorce as the day's leading news story) and sounds like a badlychaired meeting, with caller after caller just ringing in to agree with the previous

At its best, it creates a sense of community, of shared experience. The great British pubalone. lic may be as predictable as a Daily Mail leading article when it comes to their views on legalising ecstacy and Fergie's debts, but raise the issue of interracial marriage or child abuse and the discussion

perience. There is an honesty about this kind of radio that. when it is expertly handled. renders all those experts pontificating on Radio 4 quite redundant. Anna Raeburn's afternoon

show. Live And Direct, is a model of this kind of broadcasting. Largely it comes down to a matter of persona. Raeburn is supportive and encour aging but very firm, rather like an awfully nice midwife attending a difficult birth.

Thursday afternoon's discussion on accelerated sexual development in young children, some of whom develop secondary sexual characteristics such as breasts and pubic hair as young as four or five, brought forth a storm of calls from distressed parents who previously thought they were

There was also a contribution from a 43-year-old whose recollection of the shame of being the only girl in the junio school to have had periods was so haltingly eloquent and moving that I stayed in the car to listen long after I had completed my journey.

JAZZ

Dave O'Higgins Pizza Express

WITHOUT being overly hyped. Dave O'Higgins

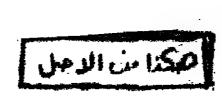
has established himself as one of our best contemporary saxophonists, a position underlined by the streetwise assurance of his last album. He is unfashionably straight-ahead. a Tubby Hayes for the nineties when many pundits are more comfortable with musicians trying to blend this, that and the other. You can spot the difference because he usually works with American drum-mer Gene Calderazzo, whose driving beat and aggressive accents would cause chaos in a more rarefied line-up.

Another album looms, and

O'Higgins gave us the title tune, Under The Stone, an attractive blues waltz gently milked on soprano saxophone. It's with the tenor, though, that he made his most personal statements, whether caressing the ballad Someone Should Have Said or taking the old bossa nova hit No More Blues for an unusually belligerent ride: lots of notes swung naturally over the beat, his tone neither harsh nor folksy but with an appealing furry

O'Higgins ended the set in the grand manner, ripping expertly though the chords of I Got Rhythm at speed while Calderazzo laid about him. This quartet takes off next week for a tour of Northern England and is worth braving the winter evenings for.

Ronald Atkins



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- - Objective

Princesses Plc versus the Palace

AST year Sarah Ferguson worked very hard at doing what the tabloids had suggested she should do for some

time. She lost a lot of weight. This was still not good enough The verdict of The Sun's slim-ming editor was this: "Fergie may have lost two stone but it is very doubiful she will keep it off . . . she associates food with pleasure, not pain. And in the end Fergie always puts pleasure at he very top of her shopping list."

Her shopping list, as we now know, is another problem even the new slimmer, trimmer duchess cannot not escape from. Her rumoured debts of up to £3 million have become public knowledge with the Palace issuing a statement to say that she is on her own. The Queen has reportedly bailed her out twice before, once for half a million, and she is not

prepared to do it again.
It is interesting that the focus should now be on Fergie. She admitted last May in Hello! magazine that she was in "financial straights", and one can't help thinking that the Palace statement may have been issued to deflect some of the media heat that has recently been put on the Queen and Prince Philip's marriage with the publication of Sarah Bradford's book. The monar-

self-destruct then it has to try and play to the public demand of a learner, more efficient royal family. Despite the Queen's millions, she still likes to be seen as someone who switches off the lights at the Palace, who forbids her staff private calls. Fergie on the other hand has always been known for her exce

The Guardian Sotorday January 20 1996

oisterous, too free and easy. At first she seemed, as the tab-loids told us, like "a breath of fresh air". Her earthy, horsey, Home-Counties charm was in favour when Diana seemed nothing but a repressed and miserable Sloans. Dollke Diana who went straight from nursery school into marriage, Sarah had had an adult life involving work and other relationships before she met Andrew. But what was once seen as a healthy appetite for life became her downfall. Here was a woman who liked sex, food, fun, and this meant her behaviour was more and more "undignified".

She was too fat, too loud, too

After her separation from Andrew ("Andrew is a darling but a boring darling") she had an open affair with Steve Wyatt, a Texan entrepreneur and engaged according to a horrifled acquaintance in "a display of mutual fondling such as I have never seen in a three-star restaurant". The toe-sucking photos of her with financial advisor John Bryan



were the final straw. The mother-in-law from hell made t perfectly clear that even if she were reconciled with Andrew she would never be given any official duties. How could a woman whom the public has seen having her toes sucked stand in front of the Cenotaph? Worse still the rose the name of a rose named in her honour form Duchess of

Fergie has detached member of the royals. jetting round the world to burst into

plight of deprived children. She has be criticised for the engagement was anthe amount of holidays she takes. her clothes her bad behaviour (which

bags of sugar about on a aeroplane, putting a paper bag over her head and making bird noises) and — shock, horror — admitting to Aids tests as well as using condoms. She is, according to Lord Charteris, the Queen's former private secre-tary, "a vulgarian . . . vulgar, vulgar, vulgar". Indeed this is the gist of much of the current criticism of her plight.

There are those who object not to the fact that she had

volve little

more than

York to Sun-| lived so beyond her means, that these amounts of money are obscene, but that she has not spent the money in "a tasteful fragrant fashion which would not frighten either the horses or the House

> A colleague who worked with her before the marriage said that "she never had any taste. She used to wear pop socks and slippers at work She simply wasn't interested greedy. Her idea of a big spend was two skirts at Monsoon. She remembers that after

nounced, Andrew would go round to her flat with his staff and "the wardrobe was culled". Yet Fergie's extravagance seems to stem largely from a lack of discrimination about what is good. She will buy the most expensive things as if to prove her own self-worth. Like many shopaholics she is trying to buy both ap-

proval and love. Like Diana, she has described her feelings of low selfesteem and last year told an American audience that after ber marriage "there I was at the Palace, wandering with no compass, no fixed sense of what to do. It wasn't that I lacked the will or the ability. I simply did not know what was expected of me." Does she know any better now? She was praised at first for "being her-

self", but being herself is increasingly what gets her into

Diana has described a similar situation, and it is telling that both these women's distress should manifest itself through problems around con suming Diana became bulimic. Fergie meanwhile has over-consumed through shop-ping. (I have been told that there is even something called channing bulling in the shopping bulimia where you

go mad at the shops and then take it all back again the next day.) It is as if the demands that are currently being made on the royal family — that it should be leaner and fitter— are being played out through the lives and bodies of Diana and Fergie. Both women are seen as too emotional and excessive, as too much, as loose cannons who want a royal life style but do not behave like

proper royals should. The question, then, is slm-ply this. Does marriage into the royal family guarantee that you are a royal for ever? One presumes that producing heirs to the throne might be a sufficient guarantor, but there are calls for both Di and Fergie to be stripped of their titles. To do so would reduce them to little more than brood mares. but the argument is that they have not earned respect in the way that someone like Princess Anne has done. What is never in question is the behaviour of the blood royals. It may be patently ridiculous that the duchess blows such huge sums of money but what does Andrew do to earn his keep?

Do any of us really know What does the Queen expect Fergie to do if she has never given her guidance? Are Diana and Fergie to be condemned for having sex lives when Charles and Andrew are not? Fergie may be out of control financially and emotionally, as

Palace sources claim. Then if this is the case why don't they more and condemn her a little less? While most of us cannot imagine spending the sums that Fergie has, nor can any of us imagine having the kind of money that the Queen does. If Fergie is parasitical because of her marriage she is no less of a leech than Philip, who doesn't exactly go without. There are also a hand of sub-royals funded by the public purse whose bank accounts are

never scrutinised in this way. I am not suggesting that Fer-gie has not behaved like a crazed lottery winner. There is clearly a lack of focus in her life which propels her into these various social gaffes and means that after such a barrage of criticism she still has no idea what she ought to look like, and so ends up spending a fortune on dreadful tack. However, as with Diana, her posttion as it stands is untenable.

She may not have official duties but she is the mother of the Queen's grandchildren. She cannot simply disappear The only solution that I see is that she and Diana should

form a refuge for those fleeing from the grip of this dysfunctional family. They should kiss and tell and give the gossip to Hello!, write the blockbuster sell the film to Hollywood and blow the gaff apart. With the money they can pay off their debts and become women of independent means. Princesses Plc.

Only then, perhaps, could we look at the rest of the royal family and ask them where their wayward daughters-inlaw ever got the idea that they were entitled to a life of luxury without ever being asked to justify such a lifestyle? Why did they ever think they could have the cake, eat it, throw it up again and not pay for it? A downsized monarchy may not have room for Diana and Fergle — even in her new size 10 version — but the royal firm cannot, however much it would like to, make them just go away. It must somehow accommodate them. Yet day by day it becomes more obvious that when even those who marry into this family are made so unhappy by the workings of this archaic system of hereditary privilege, then we must ask what chance there is for the rest of us?

Ann Widdecombe's Christian values include blaming hungry families for their poverty and allowing pregnant prisoners to be shackled. Photograph by DAVID SILLITOE

Doris and those monster

WEGAN TRESIDDER



INTERVIEW

NN Widdecombe begins conversation ally. "I hope you are not going to talk rubbish like the last interviewer who kept asking me stuff about whether I cried when my cats died. Never heard such total rot." Her press officer chuckles. It will be his only moment of relaxation. Keeping the Prisons Minister in check is a job he will do valiantly — using a code of facial twitches — but not with total success.

1000

In her eight years as Солservative MP for Maidstone, Ann Widdecombe has been exceedingly controversial. When, in 1991, a survey showed one in five families were going hungry, she sug-gested that since four in five were not, hungry families might be mismanaging things In 1993, she converted to Catholicism in protest at the ordination of women in the Anglican Church and also at the tendency, as she put it, for some bishops to say "thou shalt not sin except if thou be unemployed". She has funda-mentalist beliefs, seeing Heaven "as people in white nightgowns with lots of harps and Hell as a place with lots of burning lakes", She is hardright, anti-abortion, and a workaholic who, at 48,

remains unmarried.
She has had a hellish New Year. First there was the case of the Saudi dissident, Mohammed al-Mas'ari, who is appealing against deportation to Dominica, Widdecombe says he cannot be allowed to jeopardise British trade with the Saudis, and British jobs. Then, she defended the policy of shackling pregnant prison. ers to hospital beds, claiming the support of NHS staff, until their disavowal forced her to apologise in the Commons this week. She has been accused of lacking sensitivity through being childless herself. And yesterday, the shack-ling policy she so valiantly upheld was scrapped. She is only just over five feet

tall - her smallness

intensified by the vestness of er room at the Home Office. She is wearing a startling suit of purple and green stripes. Her nails are painted bright red and her shiny belinet of black patent leather shoes. She is much more vivid, and

ess dour than her caricature as Doris Karloff. She has an

unexpected dry humour, espe cially about comments on her appearance. "I actually roared with laughter," she says,
"when I saw the Mirror's
spoof [superimposing her face on the photograph of a chained prisoner]. I hadn't looked as slim as that in years Mind you, it was the body of a pregnant lady . . . "My mother always says I have her looks," she says, "and my father's disposition.

He was very ambitious, very go-ahead." He was a naval armaments supply officer. Ann, who has one brother — Canon Widdecombe, an evan gelical priest — was schooled at a convent in Bath. "They were very rigorous but encouraged you to believe you could do anything you wanted to. I never had an ambition crushed in my life. I was very ambitious, very." After gradu-ating with two degrees, one in Latin, and working in market ing and as a financial dministrator for London I Iniversity, she won Maidstone in 1987 and was Major's

first woman minister.
Dick Crossman predicted
she would be the first female
Whip. You can see why. She may be upfront and loudmouthed — rot, rubbish and stupid are favourite words but she is fancy with her foot-work, both in the Commons, where she is an expert on pro-cedure, and during this interview. Most striking of all is her self-certitude. She talks in the crisp, sing-song tones of someone who is so sure they are right, it wearies them to

"My philosophy," she says,
"is carpe diem. I live for the
duty of the day. In a couple of weeks' time, I shan't worry about this week." Not even worry about "Annette", who wrote to The Guardian describing how

being chained had degraded giving birth?
"No," says Widdecombe.
"She may say that. Only she can say how she feels. But I had a duty to carry out, which was to balance the needs of the general public in terms of

Not a very Christian reaction, though, is it?



ing you aren't giving me the evidence at the moment."

If anything illustrates the difficulties of being an hard-

right Christian politician it is

at the end of our conversation,

when we get on to prisons.

Widdecombe's newest prob-lem. This week, the Prison

Officers' Association pro-

tested that cuts will drastl-

the role of mere turnkeys.

cally impair the programme of

rehabilitation in prisons, and will force wardens back into

Widdecombe starts with a

polished line of crisis-what-

crisis? "We are convinced that across the Prison Service

as a whole, there are still effi-

ciencies to be had. There will

have to be some trimming but

everyone back in their cells doing nothing." But there is talk of having to reduce out-of-cell time from 12

'T'm saying that there won't be a blanket cut-back . . . But if

you have to lock someone up for a bit longer to have a better

regime during the day when they are out, then you have a trade-off."

To which, you have to ask, how does her Christian con-science handle the notion of

political trade-off? When she

science clear that the cuts will

have concerns. I am not saying

that there are things I would like to do that I can't do at the

the entire prison system is

moment. I am not even saying

sits in church, is her con-

not affect her declared com-mitment to rehabilitation?

"I am not saying I don't

that doesn't mean there will have to be huge incursions

into education in prisons

What you don't do is have

hours a day to eight.

"I think that's absolutely stupid. Protecting the public is an extremely Christian thing But "Annette" was only

charged with shoplifting.
"I don't comment on indi-vidual cases," she replies.
Pregnant prisoners will no

longer be shackled in hospital.
But the question remains:
why was the policy not
reviewed earlier? Both Alan
Howarth and Emma Nicholon, after all, cited the policy as proof of the uncaring nature of the Tories, and the Labour MP George Howarth raised his concerns with

Widdecombe last December. Her reply makes the press officer twitch. "Well, I think everyone understands that until a policy is changed, you defend a current policy. That is just a political fact of life. As far as I am concerned, the policy I had to defend was the existing policy. We were aware that there were concerns but the processes of how to translate those concerns into action were not completed and pending that completion, the policy stood."

Didn't she have her own concerns? "I had two concerns, one of which I was able to make clear at the start [after Jack Straw's private member's question this month) of male officers being involved and also about security." Of 20 female escapes in the last five years, she

says, "five or seven" were But none were heavily pregnant. "You're quite right. We

have never had anybody escape who was on the verge of giving birth. But we didn't restrain them when they are on the verge of giving birth. When medical advice confirmed that labour had started, restraints were So why was the policy

She pauses. "We were sim-ply asking whether any aspects of the policy could be We move on to Mr Mas'ari.

stop this conversation." No matter. Widdecombe's career is like the ultimate

ment in Saudi Arabia and is now appealing against depor-tation. Does Widdecombe ac-cept that in bowing to the of Canterbury, for his Easter sermon on the growing gap Saudis, for reasons of realpoli-

tik, the moral argument has been squandered? "I don't think it has. Let's presume that we have to protect Mr Mas'ari, though we haven't yet substantively con-sidered his claim to asylum, but let's also understand that we cannot have a friendly country being continually upset . . . We would dearly like everybody to say absolutely anything they like but you do have to consider the

consequences." But what if Nigeria had its support of Ken Saro-Wiwa? What if China threatened trade sanctions unless we

Rot, rubbish and stupid are favourite words. She talks like someone so sure they're right, it wearies them to spell out why

banned coverage of its

orphanages?
"Well, I think you have got to look at each case on its own merits. I can't give a blanket answer." This case, she adds, does not set a precedent. "It is very unusual."

It certainly is, for the Brit-

ish government to surrender the principle of freedom of speech.
"I don't think we have sur-

rendered that principle. Mr Mas'arl can say whatever he wants to say — in Dominica. I think," she adds, looking across to her twitching press officer, "that we will have to

lucky dip box; stick your hand in and there is always somewho fied torture and imprison- thing else to unwrap. There is, ing wrong, I was simply say-

for instance, her attack two years ago on the Archbishop

between rich and poor. "What I actually criticised was the use of a particular set of statistics for political pur-poses. If you are the Arch-bishop of Canterbury giving an Easter sermon, I don't expect it to develop into a party political broadcast. My objec-tion was not that the Church sought to comment on social issues but that it should be responsible."
She much preferred the

apolitical sermon at the Catholic Westminster Cathedral. Was that because it offered an escape from the reality of a divided society? "The Easter message is real-ity. I believe in the Resurrec-

tion. I believe it happened. I want to hear about it. I don't want a sermon based on secular considerations. That is not to say that one shouldn't have sermons on poverty. But if you politicise those sermons, that raises different questions. I have noticed a huge difference since moving to the Catholic in the spiritual content of the sermous, in a concentration of the mind on the life to come, as well as on the physical requirements for this life." Shouldn't a politician be

concerned with life now?

"Oh no, no, no," she tuts.

"This politician is concerned with finding solutions to today's problems but at the same time, this politician is also a practising Christian with a smil and a smithus life. with a soul and a spiritual life

"There is no reason for me to see my whole life in political terms and have every refer-ence point of my spiritual life

wonderful, but my conscience is clear that I have made the in the political here and now. In which case, why not apbest fist of it that I can." But her verdict on her minproach statistics on poverty with spiritual humility first, isterial career is less ambivalent. Her duty, she says, is to find solutions "as long as the and a politician's rigour second? Where is the compassion in immediately questionsolution is not morally repugnant to me, and I can safely say ing the validity of statistics as I enter my sixth year as a showing one in five familles minister that that has never happened to me."

were going hungry?
"It is consistent with com-At which you think, how ex-traordinary and how nice to passion to identify what is gobe so unfettered.

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Structures at an exhibition

AMES Holland, who has died aged 90, was relaxed replica of James Stewart, with a cently sardonic manner and a weary experience of mounting wartime exhibitions in unlikely places and difficult circumstances." He was also an accomplished professional painter and illustrator, orga niser, teacher and wit, with a memory of the art and design world spanning this century.

Born in Gillingham, Kent, the son of a craftsman blacksmith at Chatham who became an Admiralty overseer the young Holland learnt navigation at school in Rochester. It was there, too, that the art master submitted his drawings of ships and ship-ping to the Royal Drawing Society's exhibition, where he won the president's prize. This not only gave him a kind of dispensation to wear his hair long at school but also

shaped his future career. He went to Rochester Art School and to the Royal College of Art, where William Rothenstein was principal. Holland described him as a terrifying little man, and an indifferent teacher. Fellow RCA students at that time included Henry Moore (with whom James sbared a flat in Charlotte Street). Edward Bawden, Eric Ravilious, Douglas Bliss, Barnet Freedman and Enid Marx

It was also at the RCA that

Boswell who, with James Fitton, made up the "Three Jims" trio, who became important in leftist, peace, anti-fascist arts movements between the wars. and particularly with the Art-ists International Association. Holland was a member of both the London Group and the New England Art Club, and worked with Mischa Black on the Peace Pavilion in Paris in 1937, as well as pro-

Man of Kent . . . Holland

ducing illustrations for the League of Nations and

He ran the sketch club while at the RCA, and introduced rimself to Wilson Steer, Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell and the Bloomsbury set. It must have been through them that in the late twenties he went to live in Whistler's old studio in

Jack Beddington, the public-ity director of Shell who wore full frock coat and Wing col-lars, and also commissioned John Betjeman to write the copy. He joined Shell's advertising agents, Lord And Thomas, continuing to work

in various advertising agencles up until 1939, when wartime restrictions gradually brought such commercial activities to a close. Later he joined the Ministry of Information as its exhibi-

tion designer, to be given a brief, a budget, and left to get on with it. He went on to be-come chief exhibition designer at the Central Office of Information, where his designs included gas showrooms, a replica coal mine and the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow. When the idea of a Festival

of Britain was proposed in 1948, Holland joined Sir Hugh Casson, the festival's director of architecture, and his team. He headed display in the upstream section of the South Bank, was member of the de sign panel, and the resident designer at the festival office His particular contribution was the sea and ships section and on the strength of this he was told by the Secretary of the Navy to turn the 16,000 ton escort carrier the Campania into a floating, round-Britain contribution to the Festival. As always, Holland took this in his stride, got on with the



Plans for peace . . . Holland on the Festival of Britain site in 1950

ob, and succeeded. For this he was awarded the OBE. He worked as a director at various advertising agencies through the fifties, becoming interested in design educa-

tion. He had joined the Society of Industrial Artists before th examining at art schools all war and became instrumental over the country. In 1971 he was involved with the Hayin its post-war reformation. He was president of what is now the Chartered Society of ward Gallery's Thirties Exhi

Designers in 1960, and some Kent countryside, while conyears after became its full-time education officer. tinuing with painting and drawing and some teaching. From 1963 to 1971 he headed He liked the good things in Birmingham Polytechnic's visual communications faculty sation and a good argument. while lecturing, visiting and

Edward Pool

lames Holtand, artist and exhibi

Eric Briault

Radical cog in II FA machine

The Guardian Saturday January 20 199

RIC Briguit, the former education officer of the Inner London Education Authority, who has died aged 34, had the mind of a visionary and proved an important and radical cog in that Rolls Royce machine of local government. He beat a path from Brighton, Hove and Sussex Grammar School to Peterhouse, Cambridge, picking up the highest acade honours as well as a Blue in athletics. And his affinity with teachers came out of his own experience as one beween 1983 and 1947.

In 1948 he became a London County Council inspector of schools, a year after the LCC had started its 30-year plan for secondary education. It was the most adventurous proposal for new buildings and new ideology, to be enshrined in the comprehensive school. London's County Hall, with its array of almost pre- and past-Fabians, was still on the march. If you turned round sharply at the members' din-ing table you faced someone that had known George Bernard Shaw or Beatrice Webb. Brigult was one of the LCC's

talent-spotters in the teachers training colleges, snapping up some of the best of the appren-tice teachers for the London service. As he entered County Hall's top echelon some of the comprehensives were on their predicted course towards excellence, which could have led to complacency; but Briault saw the need for a more broadly based community ap proach. Toddlers and infants

needed a safe place to wait for mum to come back from work while adolescents needed a well funded and busy pro-

gramme of activity. His support for the "community" led to some bitter confrontations between offiers and leading members. There was a move to adjust the 30-year plan. It was, perhaps, Peterhouse versus Bal-liol, for the Labour leaders were of a calibre that frightned members of the Cabinet.

Fortunately, perhaps, Brigult retired when public capital expenditure was being severely reduced. From 1977 to 1981 and again between 1984 and 1985 he was visiting pro-fessor of education at the University of Sussex. He was born to be a geography teacher, one that enjoyed trudging on fieldcourse work. It must be difficult for teach-

ers today to understand the widespread political prejudice in the choice of head teachers during the cold war. Briault, to his honour, respected teachers' skill and craft if not their politics; there was no political loyalty tast when he was about. He was a cardinal in the dedicated curia that created a irst-class metropolitan educa long day his loyalty lay with those that taught and learnt and were not afraid to improvise or experiment.

Mirri Herrington

Eric Briguit, educationalist, born

Keeping the craft of wooden boats afloat

has died aged 90, was a boatbuilder and writer who was pivotal in keeping wooden boat building skills allve in America when technology threatened to ex-tinguish them. He was also the associate curator of small craft at the Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut.

Gardner was brought up on a Maine farm where he feasted on the socialist works in his grandmother's library when he wasn't experiencing nature - bird watching, he told me, is one of the principal uses for small boats.

When I met him a few years ago, it was soon obvious that Gardner was no ordinary boat builder. His office was close to the beach at the museum. Rain was drumming on the tin roof and piles of books, tools and boat models were lying about. The author of Building Classic Small Craft sat at his

desk in a hat and green weath-erproof, and unveiled a life of campaigning which paral-leled his work with his hands. He learned boatbuilding as

a lad, taught in Maine rural schools, and in 1932 graduated from Columbia University into the Depression. There were no jobs for English and philosophy of education teachers, and he joined the American Workers' Party and ecame a National Unemployed League organiser. With the outbreak of war he

built boats near Boston and, disillusioned with union and political faction fights, spent his spare time in the city's libraries, studied Freud, and made friends among Jewish Marxists. He wrote for Contemporary Issues as "Don Carson" — working after the war on the Rosenberg atom spies case, among other stories - and campaigned



Gerdner . . . campaigns

boatyards in the National Fisherman, a paper with a huge circulation within the American fishing industry. Gardner came to Mystic, a tiny settlement that once built whaling ships, after being a consultant at the Adirondack

Peggy Braithwaite

ANGLING in a bosum's chair or polishing a battery of gleaming glass lenses, Peggy Braithwaite, who has died aged 76, ruled a minute kingdom on the shores

unique kingdom on the shore of the Irish Sea. As the only

woman principal lighthouse keeper in Britain, from her

home on Walney Island she

vista that ranged from the

sands of Morecambe to the Lake District fells.

Only eight of Trinity House's 72 lights still have

could contemplate a landward

keepers and she won her posi tion through merit and -as

she was the first to accept with pride — robust Lancas-trian family links. Her father

sister and brother-in-law all

with another communist and ournalist, Kenneth Durant. le contributed to Durant's book on the Adirondack guide boat. That vessel was eckoned to be the most significant artifact in the develop-ment of the mountainous and lake studded North Woods where wealthy New Yorkers vacationed after the Civil War. The guideboats weigh only 72lbs including oars, transport three plus campi gear, and can be carried on the shoulder from one lake to

craft programme in 1969. Gardner was headhunted. bringing his own tools "some of them used by my grand-Addis of Southwark". There was virtually no traditional rowing left in the American north-east when he started. "People had forgotten how to row, and you couldn't

sands and shallows on the approach to Barrow-in-Furness.

Knitting countless bobble hats in aid of the local lifeboat

and out rabbiting on Walney's dunes with her .22 rifle, she

played her part in Barrow's

continuing but precarious role as a naval ship-builder.

She was born on Piel Island

near Barrow's southern bay

finger of Walney as a teenager when her father became the

lighthouse's assistant keeper. The family lived in the next-

door cottage, bunkered down against Walney's winds, gen-erating their own electricity

and sound of the Irish Sea. moving to the crooked, sandy

Trinity House's lady of the lamp

buy a decent set of oars." But soon hundreds were turning up at Mystic weekends, bring-ing boats designed for work on river and coast for others to try. Classes began, and Gard-ner switched to small craft in his National Fisherman column. He began designing dories and writing books on

how to make them. He beld court at Mystic almost to his dving day. He had an emburrassingly wide English literary repertoire with which to illuminate arguments on the historical, political and economic forces shaping American decline. Something as specialised as boatbuilding, he understood, could not be seen in isolation. It was not just technology and the economy, but real estate prices which made it impossi-ble for people to afford a house

with yard big enough to build

or store a boat. "Museums for the most part

enthusiasts and, during the

second world war, a platoon manning four ack-ack batter

ies. Leaning out to watch the Barrow blitz one night, Peg-

gy's father got stuck in one of

the narrow windows and was

rescued by a joint family-mill-

keeper — one of a handful of women who have helped hus-

service — and was promoted

awarded the MBE in 1984, 10

years before she retired, aged

4. and moved to a bungalow

tary operation.
She became an assistant

are very short-sighted," said Gardner, dean of the American small craft builders. "Interest in old ships is bound to die out as the generations that were close to them pass away ... You can't preserv skills unless you acquire them, and the only way you can acquire and retain them is

by practice, by use. "Wealthy people clear out their attics and send it here to get tax write-offs. We laboriously put labels on it, catalogue it and store it away. I foresee a time when that 'li reach the junk pile. We've de-layed it, that's all."

John Gardner was not religious, but he is well equipped o steer to a haven betw Scylla and Charybdis:

Christophur (Indd

merged. The water supply was a rain catchment tank on the roof. Their isolation was broken by holidaymakers, bird soft yacht, now in new hands,

John Gardner, boatbuilder and writer, born June 18, 1905; died

berthed in Barrow basin.

Her lighthouse, which she painted 11 times, twice from

her bosun's chair, remains a

manned station run by Lan-

caster Port Commissioners

with Peggy's former assistant

lan Clark, now in charge. The

"Lady of the Lamp's" distinc-tion as the solitary woman

principal keeper, in the long and heroic history of light-houses, is unlikely to be

Martin Wainwright

Weekend Birthdays

BUZZ ALDRIN, 66 today,

was the second man on the moon. A single-sentence American tragedy. He was gonna be first, yet NASA, maybe for casting reasons of likeability, chose Neil Arm-strong. But Buzz did bound over that bright-lit dust, and "once you've been to the moon, I don't think there is normal life . . ." he said, 26 ter restrial years, wrecked marriages, and periods of depression and alcoholism later. His pre-lunar life doesn't sound hat normal. He's MASH vintage; shot down MiGs over Korea: wrote an MIT thesis on orbital rendezvous 40 rears ago: proved, while being flung about on space missions "like Spam in a can that he had the ultimate right stuff for Apollo 11. Since then, when not publicly confessing to his own dark side, he's failed to create an esprit de corps of moon boys, gone marketing for a non-earth Disney land, sought sponsors for a Mars transport shuttle pro-ject, and when last consulted was co-writing a five-volume ci-fi saga. He can't tell outsiders what he feels about the moon but his third wife trans-mits the message: you know how you recall fondly that perfect only-for-us holiday

Today's other birthdays: Tom Baker, actor, 60; George Burns, comedian, 100; Liz Calder, publisher, 58; Derek Dougan, former footballer and manager, 58; Liza Goddard, actress, 46; Christopher Martin-Jenkins, cricket commentator, 51; Patricia Neal, actress, 70: Jessica Rawson, warden Murton College, Oxford, 53; Sybil Rosenfeld, historian of the theatre, 93; Natan Scharansky, computer scientist, dissident, 48; Andy Shep-pard, jazz saxophonist, 39; Prof Nalin Chandra Wick-

beach? "Well, when he looks

up at the moon, what he's thinking is — you're my friend." VR

ramasinghe, astronomer, 57 Nigel Williams, novelist, 48. Towarrow's birthdays: Rohan Butler, historian, 79; Geena Davis, actress, 39; Placido Domingo, tenor, 55;

George Foulkes, Labour MP, 54; Barbara Harvey, historian, 68; Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist MP, 58; Jack Nicklaus, golfer, 56; Ursula Owen, editor, Index on Cen-sorship, 59; Seona Reid, di-rector, Scottish Aris Council 46; Paul Scofield, actor, 74; Laurence Whistler, glass-en-graver, 84; Norman Willis, former general secretary. TUC, 63.

Death Notices

pei

and sometimes cut off from the mainland when the causeway kept the light, which guides craft away from the dangerous in Barrow with her husband keeper, born July 9, 1919; died January 12 1996 Peggy Braithwaite . . . keeping the light in the family Ken, a retired garage man-

Silence's golden message

Richard Chartres

Face to Faith

N EPISCOPAL sage of a pre-war vintage, Bishop Hensley Henson, once lamented that bishops come very rapidly to acquire "the fatal facility of continuous utterance". St Ignatius of Antioch suggested that a bishop never resembles Jesus Christ so much as when he has his mouth shut.

Silence is the great educator. or so I discovered on a recent visit to the Sinai desert with a company of young people from the East End. We were a very diverse group; Muslims, Christians, the majority agnostic. For 10 days we trekked about the desert guided by local Bedouin and slept under the stars. The silence and the emptiness opened us up. As we quietened down and took our place in the landscape so we were able

to open up to one another. It was possible to communicate at a deeper level and to hear things which would have been missed at home. At St Catherine's monastery

monk told us about his life and the call to silence. The words were simple but becaus they had been baptised in silence, they had power. Our consumerist irritability was laid to rest for an instant and we really heard what was being said. The Christian faith is not an

ideology or a lifestyle package which can be communicated in the way in which commodities are sold. Christian communication begins with the contemplation of God who is to be discovered in the silence as the one in whom "we live and move and have our being" God who is not an object of our thought still less a Being who

in words or concepts.

Jesus at crucial points in his
life went apart to pray in

silence but compassion brought him back to speak with crowds, disciples and his opponents among the religious leadership. Even at the climax of his earthly life, however, he communicated profoundly by silence. Brought to trial before Herod, the king questioned Jesus "in many words, but he answered him nothing"

However, the contemplative roots of Christian communica tion do not exempt believers. even bishops, from taking seri ously the opportunities pro-vided by modern communications. Global communications have the power to transform the planet. They could be used to open up profound communi individuals. The same technical means could be misused by you?" he said as he looked at

commercial corporations, with disastrous consequences for the human spirit and our life together on planet earth.

thing would come to be treated as a commodity form, and it would be a tragedy if our global communication was to be skewed by the kind of spicy an dramatic packaging which sells commodities but undermines dialogue. This was another lesson of the desert. Much communication is reduced to "cetting your message across"; this one way 'communication" can lead to

either anger or uncreative acquiescence. However, there is a place for Christian leaders seeking to inform their contemporaries about the grammar of the Christian tradition, especially when Britain, in the words of the Chief Adviser on the National Curriculum, is becoming "a religiously illiterate

The ignorance about the neaning of religious symbols is already profound. I was stopped on my way into a London church recently by a lively 10 year old boy. "Who are

my cassock and sherherd's crook. I thought: "This is your chance for dialogue," so I flour ished my crook and said: "If you can work out what this is, you may guess who I am". He looked puzzled and then he sald triumphantly: "I know! You're the Grim Reaper". Every church has to be a cen tre of communication and bish-

ops have a responsibility to encourage the church not to

tised ghetto of consenting picty. Churches have just becan to explore the possibilities of new, rapidly changing communications technology. But "getting the message across" only goes some way to creating the dialogue in which there can be a profound experience of the communication which there is between Jesus Christ and His Father through

retreat further into a priva-

the Holy Spirit. The basis for this dialogue is humility and mutual respect. The desert taught us about our limita tions. It is a great leveller if, without modern conveniences everyone has to go behind a rock clutching paper and a box of matches. The result was real dialogue between people who in other circumstances would have been wary of one another. To communicate property

we must be prepared to risk our dignity and stand on the same level with our partners in dialogue. The words spoken and received in such a context have energy. Dialogue, rightly understood, is itself an experi-ence of the way in which God communicates.

The Rt Rev Richard Chartres is to be enthroned as the Bishop of London next Friday

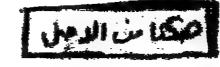
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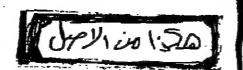








Saturday January 20 18



Money Guardian

Hard-hit young just say no to life of pay as you learn

The growing fear of debt deters university entrants

OVERTY and the prospect of financial hardship are driving down numbers o university applicants. A report from the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals, published this week, reveals that applications for third-level education have fallen for the first time in living memory, despite a steady increase in the number of school leavers.

The committee said that 54,000 first-year students had already left their courses early, 10 per cent more than last year. Almost 60 per cent of se had dropped out for nonacademic reasons. Ted Nield. a spokeman for CVCP, said students from underprivileged backgrounds were more likely to leave because of

The report said that 11 per cent of students had not received their grants within one month of starting their course. Local education authority maintenance grants are now £2,340 for students living in London and £1,885 for those studying elsewhere. This year saw the second of three 10 per cent drops in the student grant.

Student loans have increased by more than 10 per cent to an average of £1,695 in But loans are an unpopular option for many students. The National Union of Students has consistently hit out at the Government's steady reduc-

De ath Notices

tion of grants. Ian Moss, NUS vice-president of welfare, says: "Higher education is increasingly becoming the preserve of the affluent. Only half of all students eli-

gible actually apply for loans. This is due in part to what are seen as unfair repayment terms. Repayments can be deferred until a graduate has a gross income of more than £15.000 with the interest rate linked to the Retail Price Index. Mr Nield says take-up figures would be higher if the repayment rate were linked to graduates' earnings. At present, the amount to be repaid depends only on the amount borrowed and the time scale of

the repayment. Many students avoid taking out loans by working to sup-plement their grant or relying on parental contribution. A survey from Barclays Bank found that students graduate with an average debt of £2,293. The bank says that 14 per cent of the latest crop of first-year students have already taken term-time jobs, earning an av-erage of £43.78 per week. Louise Clarke of the

National Union of Students says the figures support its opinion that the Government is doing "absolutely nothing to help students". She says: We want to encourage people to go on to further education, but high debt levels are making people reconsider enroll-ing for university."

Sue Prince, studying English Literature and Spanish at Newcastle University, is struggling with debt. She is in her third year and owes



societies which offer the loans.

The CVCP expects that thos

although it admits that it is

unlikely that banks will be-come involved. Ms Clarke

says: "There is no point in them taking interest in a scheme which does not work."

who have just started their

three-year course will owe al-

Off course . . . Student Sue Prince has been forced to take a job paying just £30 per week

22,000, not including her student loan. Miss Prince

receives a full grant but, she says: "As soon as it comes through, I pay off my over-draft. That puts my balance back to nought, but then I have to pay my rent." The grant covers her rent and some books, but she has to

work most nights to support berself and can "barely get by" on the £30 she earns per week. The university has helped her from Access Funds, available to impover ished students, but only by Miss Prince says that when

she graduates she will be

forced take any job she is of-fered to repay her debt before she can even consider a career

The Government is taking steps to make funds available to more students, but its ideas have had a cool reception. The Student Loans Bill, which received its third reading in the Commons this week, has so far failed to convince banks and building societies. Banks already provide an average of £750 interest-free credit through their overdraft facili-ties and do not see any commercial benefit in offering further loans.

The NUS has promised to boycott banks and building

Societies under siege as savers look for windfalls

AVERS besieged building societies this week in lar concessions for former accounts and cash in on windfalls following renewed spec-ulation that the Alliance & Leicester is on the verge of announcing a flotation, writes

But societies acted equally quickly to stem the flow of

new customers.
The Alliance & Leicester —
Britain's fourth biggest building society — withdrew its
range of membership acrange of member any ac-counts to new investors on Tuesday, followed by the Bri-tannia on Wednesday, which closed its instant access account to investors who had queued outside branches to

Bristol & West raised the minimum opening balance to £2,500 on its Select, Share, Premier Saver and Premier Plus membership accounts. I said that the number of people openings accounts was caus-ing delays for existing

Northern Rock yesterday increased the minimum open ing investment on all of its share accounts from £250 to

Former Tessa-holders with the Woolwich should act fast if they want to retain their

membership rights.
The society is allowing people until January 23 to transfer their money back into a share account if they moved their mature Tessa money into a Woolwich Personal Equity Bond or Guaran teed Income Bond, thus reaking membership rights

Savers must transfer their noney back before the deadline if they are to receive any free shares when the society becomes a bank. The society

PHOTOGRAPH: TED DITCHBURN

most £5,000 when they gradu-

ate. Grant cuts and rising loans

will create an even bigger bur-

den for students on five-year

courses. They will face a debt of £9,517 when they complete

Money Guardian is edited by

Elsewhere, more than 1.4 million members of the National & Provincial Build-ing Society will will have their say on the Abbey Na-tional's takeover offer at a

special general meeting to be ield in Manchester. Members will be able to vote either in person or by post at the Nynex Arena on

Those with savings accounts will only have voting rights if they held £100 in their accounts on December 31, 1995. About 700,000 nonvoting members will not be entitled to the £500 free Abbey shares to be awarded to voting savers and borrowers. N&P says these people, som of whom may have held £100 in their accounts on April 28, 1995, will receive a "relatively small cash payment"

Members of more than two years will benefit from a larger pay-out of £750 in Abbey shares plus a percent-age of their balance. All members must have at least £100 in their share accounts on the day when the N&P's business is transferred to the Abbey in

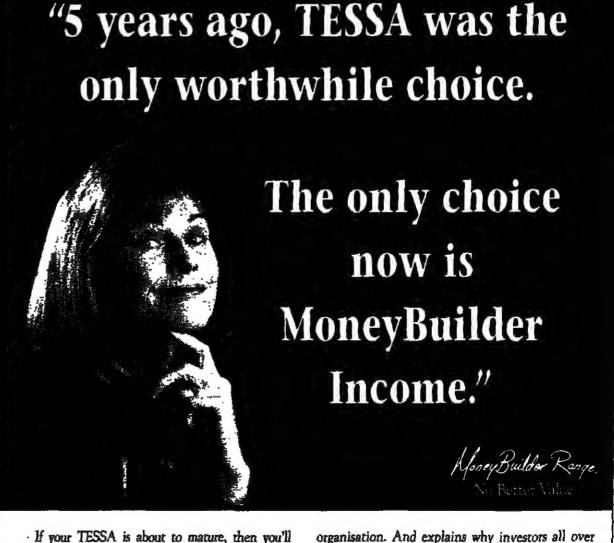
the late summer. For the merger to be ap-proved, 75 per cent of those who exercise their vote must consent to the proposals and at least half of all investing members must approve the deal. A majority of borrowers must vote in favour before the business can be transferred. Leeds and Halifax members

overwhelmingly voted in favour of a merger at special general meetings by a margin

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Slump fear dogs G7 summit Maxwell points to need for overhaul

Larry Elliott

and central bankers from the world's leading industrial nations were gathering in Paris today amid growing fears that the global econo my may be sliding back into

recession.
The sombre mood was intensified yesterday with the news that activity in Germany — the motor of the Euro pean economy — contracted in the final three months of

With only Japan of the lead-ing nations hopeful of an ac-celeration in smooth this was eration in growth this year. the gathering will explore ways of boosting activity and cutting the dole queues

Robert Rubin, the United States Treasury Secretary, reflected the downbeat mood yesterday when he said the

flation in the big three econo-mies of the US, Germany, and Japan offered some room to respond to slower growth. But the White House chief economist, Joseph Stiglitz, forecast growth of up to 2.3 per cent

The other G7 countries will eek reassurance from Mr Ru-

try to convince colleagues

in the Group of Seven (G7)

industrialised countries that Tokyo is finally getting to grips with its debt problem, writes Kevin

Billions of pounds of

lebts are owed to housing

loan companies (jusens)

and are crippling the coun-

try's financial system and

crimping the economic

bin that the long-running US budget crisis will be resolved quickly, since the deadlock between Congress and the Clinton White House has put upward pressure on long-term global interest rates.

The French government is certain to use its role as host to

Japanese plan on debt hits opposition at home

he has a plan to resolve the

problem, but that he has

yet to convince the Japa-nese public they should contribute 685 billion yen (£4.3 billion) in taxes to rescue the jusens. This task

became harder yesterday with publication of a 385

page report admitting that seven jusen had more than

Sir Rocco leaves fund managers unconvinced • Mercury Asset Management holds key

£50 billion in bad loans.

The report presented

tary policy, putting pressure on the German Bundesbank to provide a Europe-wide cut in

The Bundesbank vice-president Johann Wilhelm Gaddum said the bank should wait at least until January M3 growth is released before

considering a further move on

the jusen. Optimistically,

the report estimates actual

osses will be 6,270 billion

yen since some money may be collected or collateral

sold, a view that outside an-

alysts greeted with

The opposition Shin-shinto (New Frontier

Party) has said that it will

fight the use of taxpayers money in any bail-out.

pectation of a further easing of German base rates sooner rather than later.

key rates — or after February

20, when this data is released

But there is widespread ex-

Officials in Bonn remain confident that the German economy will pick up as 1996 wears on, but the economics ninistry admitted yesterday that activity fell back in the fourth quarter.

"After pan-German gross domestic product no longer ex-JAPAN'S new finance growth of Japan and the minister. Wataru Kubo, world.

Mr Kubo will tell the G7 cent of the total portfolio of the to panded in the third quarter of last year, it should rather have decreased somewhat in the final quarter," the ministry said in a summary of its Janury economic report

> recent softening of the world economy — particularly in has caught the G7

A senior British official said the theme of today's meeting would be the health of the world economy, adding: "A month ago that probably

would not have been the case." The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will stress the need for structural reforms of labour markets, rehearsing the arguments that he will de ploy at the G7 Jobs Summit to be held in Lille, France, in

early April. Mr Clarke will argue that labour-market flexibility, rather than cyclical factors such as the timing of econom recovery, explains why Britain has a lower rate of unemployment than most Euronean nations, and that leregulation will increase the

demand for jobs. However, the UK's quarterpoint reduction in base rates on Thursday has prompted optimism that the G7 talks may be followed by a co-ordin ated cut in the cost of

borrowing.

The French, in particular, are desperate to find ways of bolstering growth to help them fulfil the Maastricht criteria for a single currency.



Alex Brummer

Ian Maxwell, after the longest jury sequester in British legal history, is a seminal moment for the conduct of serious frand investigations and trials in Britain. It was as much the Serious Fraud Office and the jury system for deal-ing with fraud in Britain as the Maxwell brothers and their co-defendant Larry Trachtenberg which has been

on trial for the past 131 days. The objective of the SFO this time around was to bury the memory of a series of high profile failures stretching back across its seven-year his-tory which has seen a botched plea bargain in the case of in-surance broker-to-the-stars the heart of the City establishment walk free in the case of the Blue Arrow and Guinness Il trials; the farce of the Polly Peck boss Asil Nadir disappearing to Northern Cyprus and the humiliation of watching the Singapore authorities dish out summary justice to Nick Leeson before the UK au-

thorities barely stirred. If ever there was a prosecu-tion which the SFO could have believed it might pull off it was the Maxwell case. It was an opportunity to bring to justice from beyond the grave the extraordinary fraudster Rob-ert Maxwell whose death ruined the retirement of thousands of pensioners in Maxwell associated companies, causing immeasurable disrup-tion and misery.

But this is not the way it was meant to be. With the changes in the financial community which took place with Big Bang in 1986, it was acknowledged that the City's traditional culture of 'my word is my bond'' would not hold. The Governor of the Bank of England's eyebrow holds no sway in New York or Singapore and the possiblity of rebuke by the Stock Exchange was unlikely to have the less-than-scrupulous fi-nancier trembling.

The Roskill Commission, appointed by the Thatcher government, to look into the argued that the public "no longer believes that the legal system in England and Wales is capable of bringing perpe-trators of serious frauds expeditiously and effectively to book." It argued that in an equity-owning democracy, of the kind nutured by the Tories since 1979, the govern-

ment had to ensure markets were honestly managed. Plainly, the current system of "self-regulation", backed by the threat of an SFO inquiry and prosecution, has not come close to creating the public trust which Lord Roskill's commission set out to create. In the Maxwell case, the SFO is bound to take a great deal of the flak, although it had listened to previous criticism. instead of using the scatter gun approach which brought it a modicum of success in the first Guinness trial, but less sodown the road, it refined and simplified the charges to make them more understand able to the jury and soo limit

fence filibuster. But, by narrowing and focusing the range of charges,

the potential for lenghty de-

and leaving out some of the more technical offences which have been characteristic of previous fraud trials, the SFO deprived itself of the chance of at least gaining a result on lesser offences

The only real way in which the current system of financial regulation and serious fraud can be fixed is from the ground up. Britain, like the United States, needs a far more powerful, durable and convincing system of civil law to deal with financial fraud. The current system policed by a hierachy of interlocking regulators, overseen by a poweress Securities & Investment Board, is simply not working.

NSTEAD, the SIB or its successor needs to have an array of civil penalities, ranging from restitution to fines and a willingnesss to bar people from ever going near eople's money again which can deal summarily and effi-ciently with all but the most erious offences, like those of Robert Maxwell.

It is astonishing that Nick Lesson has begun his seven year prison sentence in Sings pore, yet the Securitues & Futures Authority in Britain has still to take any disciplinary action against anyone connected with Barings. The UK system of regula-

tion moves without the clout or deliberate speed which is en in other free wheeling Anglo-Saxon style markets.

The SFO may be its own worst enemy in that it is unable to enforce the criminal fraud prosecution — as has been seen in New York with van Boesky and Michael Milken, and in Signapore with Nick Leeson — requires deals

Psauc

to be cut. The SFO does not need to be closed down or merged with an already-overworked Crown Prosecution Service rather, the Lord Chancellor's office should start to consider the role of plea bargaining in fraud cases.

Then there is the question of juries. For the moment, let us put aside the uniqueness of the Maxwell jury — in terms of the length of its sequester and the result it brought forth. Any trial which takes place over 181 days and involves thousands of incomprehensible documents is bound to be a nightmare for those called upon to reach a verdict.

However well qualifed the jury may be it is certain to be confused by the most complex evidence. If Robert Maxwell was able to borrow £500 milion from Lloyds Bank, with out the right questions being asked, you cannot expect jurors to understand the complexities of using pension fund money to prop up an ailing

It was Roskill which recommended all those years ago that in the case of serious fraud the judge should sit with an expert panel — perhaps a senior forensic accountant and a leading tax barrister. This would immediately change the nature of serious fraud trials. The human dimension, which formed quite a large part of the Maxwell defence, would becomes less important and the money trail — which was critical in bringing down a President in the United States — could be mon-itored and followed more

clearly.
These are sweeping changes which cannot be made over-night. But the current system experience of the past seven years, and the risks a weak system poses to public confi-dence and London's reputation, it is time for a thoroughgoing review.

: GRAHMA WEASER SIF ROCCO FORTE . . . 'Many compelling reasons to reject hostile bid' PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLTOE Granada set for victory

Lisa Buckingham and lan King

RANADA looked to be heading for vic-tory in its £3.9 billion night after fund managers polled by the Guardian said they were backing chief exec-

utive Gerry Robinson. Several investment fund managers said they had al-ready decided to back Granada's hostile offer. Others said they were swinging in favour of the bidder altho they would not decide conclusively until after the

The outcome of the bid is expected to pivot on the deci-sion reached by Carol Galley, Asset Management, who with 14.5 per cent of Forte's shares at her disposal, will decide

Ms Galley met Mr Robinson for one-and-a-half hours of discussions yesterday morning and talked with Forte's chief executive. Sir Rocco Forte, for a similar length of

time yesterday afternoon. She is thought to favour Mr Robinson but is expected to keep both sides guessing until the bid expires at 5pm next

Tuesday. The depressing news for the Forte camp last night ap-peared to be underlined by efections amongst traditionally loyal individual

But last night, the battle took a dramatic turn when Forte announced that Sir Rocco had snapped up 3.9 mil-lion shares in his company for £14.6 million, or 376p a time. Sir Rocco — who sold just seven months ago — said: "I think the shares represent

in extremely good long term investment. In all, more than 2614 million Forte shares changed hands yesterday, of which the vast majority were said by dealers to be small parcels of Forte shares being sold for to

institutions for cash. Apart from individuals, several institutions have been trading in large volumes, with Sun Life among recent sellers.

Among those buying, Barings Asset Management and Robert Fleming have been predominant. It is known that Capital Corp — which at the outset of the bid was Forte's second biggest institutional shareholder — has now sold nearly all its stake, including

a substantial chunk to Granada's merchant bank advisers earlier this week. Last night Forte's shares closed down 51-p, at 376p, against Granada's cash offer of 362p a share. But Granada shares closed down 2p at 694p,

valuing Granada's cash and shares alternative at 387p. Adding to the pressure on Sir Rocco was news that nine out of the City's top ten ana-lysts backed Granada's bid— the exception being Goldman

Fund managers who have een Sir Rocco's final presentation said they had been un-convinced. They said that although Forte had done a lot to improve its image in the City over the duration of the bid, its management had less credibility than Granada's. One said: "He looked like a

vide the customer with a bet-

reflected in our exciting plans

for Forte's businesses, many

of which are looking rather

tired and need rejuvenating.

For example, we want to

lodge guests a more up-to-

date range of in-room enter-

We want to improve the

range and quality of food of-

fered in the Posthouse Trad-

ers restaurants. We think that

Little Chef needs more attrac-

tive menus, including an ex-

tended all-day snack and pa-

tisserie range, healthier items

and a takeaway service. We

also want to try out some new

roadside restaurant ideas to

appeal to a much wider range

tainment and business

services.

give Posthouse and Trav-

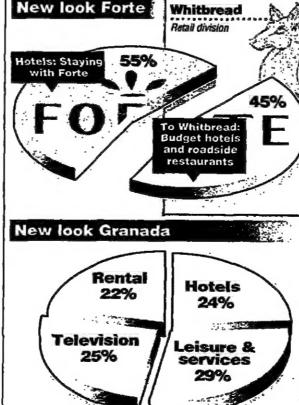
ter and wider choice is

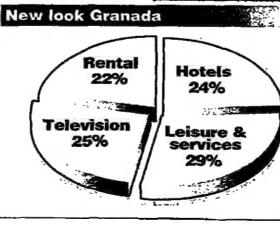
defeated man. He was exhausted and even seemed unconvinced of his own argument." But the Forte camp remained bullish last night. with Sir Rocco boasting of disposed of an American Meridien hotel for \$17 million, while maintaining the management contract. He said this was an example of the extra value that his team was

capable of unlocking.
Meanwhile, the pugnacious last minute tub-thumping on behalf of Forte by the Whit-bread group appeared to be making the decision less clear cut for some institutions. Whitbread has a condi-

tional agreement to buy For-te's roadside restaurants and budget hotels for for £1.05 billion, so long as Granada's bid fails. It emerged yesterday that the brewing and retail group had outbid a substantial and highly surprising offer from the Tesco supermarket

Even if Forte survives. City insiders said yesterday that Whithread could face a counter-bid from a disap-





The final words for Guardian readers from the men at the top

Gerry Robinson

HE key issue for Forte shareholders is which management team can deliver the best value for their shares. The question of who offers

greater value today is a simple one to answer. On any objective analysis, Granada's offer is worth considerably more than the package available from Forte.

In looking to the future, the enlarged Granada Group will be a well balanced business with four strong divisions, all in the leisure sector.

Each of the divisions -- television, hotels, leisure and services and rental — will have a leading position in its respective market.

We have already demonstrated our ability to build businesses in the UK. Over the last few years, Gra-

nada Television and LWT have gone from strength to strength, making more programmes and winning more television awards than at any point in their illustrious his-New programmes like

Cracker, Jonathan Dimbleby and Band of Gold have joined old favourites like Coronation Street, the South Bank Show and London's Burning.

Our contract catering business - Sutcliffe - now cooks over a million meals a day and its chefs won a record number of medals at this year's Hospitality Week awards. In motorway service

leaders by giving people a much wider choice of We've already installed

stations we're looking to rein-

force our position as market

Burger King in most of our sites and we're also testing an Rocco American diner concept. That commitment to pro-Forte

HERE are many compelling reasons why Forte shareholders should reject Granada's hostile bid. It seriously undervalues

Forte and its future prospects. We are Britain's leading international hotel company and we are now in a position to take full advantage of the upswing that the hotel industry is experiencing worldwide. Our newest brand. Meridien. gives us a global reach. We have top quality botels in the right locations, and we are particularly strong in London, which is the best hotel market in the world. Granada has been, to say

the least, selective in com-

paring its performance to

They ignore the fact that the hotel business has gone through terrible years following the Gulf war and the recession. Other groups have gone to the wall. We

rationalised our business. Since the bid, we have accelerated our disposals. After the sale of our roadside businesses to Whitbread we will be a pure, focused botel company, with four main brands — Exclusive, Meridien, Posthouse

survived that grim period

well. Our excellent new

management team has

and Heritage. Our new hotel company is about delivering value to shareholders. In the last three years, and despite difficult conditions, we have managed to treble profits. Our excellent prospects give us the confidence to commit to at least 20 per

ours over the last few years. | cent dividend growth in each of the next three years. From the cash generated by the sale of the roadside businesses, we intend to repurchase £800 million of our own shares from shareholders. We also intend to distribute the company's interest in The Savoy Hotel olc to Forte shareholders. By comparison, our sharesubstantial decrease in income if they accept Gra-

nada's bid. The bottom line is this. Forte has built up an excellent British company over decades and we do not want to see it stripped and demol-ished in Granada's proposed fire sale. Our assets include not only our unique collection of hotels, but also our well-trained staff. We will continue to look after them. Forte is a builder, not

News in brief Phone boss cut off

Charles Wigoder, founder and chief executive of mobile phones distributor Peoples Phone, was ousted yesterday after the company's decision earlier this week, to pull its proposed £200 million flota-tion. Mr Wigoder, who owns 18 per cent of the company, is being replaced by Keith Parrish, the group's former dep-uty chief executive.

Bus convoy grows

Bus company Stagecoach yes-terday bought two South-west firms for £16.1 million. Devon General and Bayline were sold by Harry Blundred, who led a ment buyout at privatisation.

Nuclear reaction

Labour shadow trade and industry secretary Margaret Beckett condemned plans to privatise the nuclear industry yesterday after it emerged that 21 firms of financial advisers and consultants have been employed to advise on the sell-off. abour also attacked the revelation that £25 million has been set aside for "restructuring and privatisation" of the

State 'paid £208m of bills late

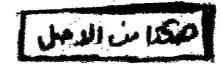
Celia Weston Enterprise Editor

AT LEAST 2208 million owed by the Government to British businesses was paid late in the last financial year, according to figures pub-lished yesterday by Labour. The Opposition challenged ministers to act immediately to rectify the situation.

These latest details of gov-ernment late-payment practices come as ministers are preparing to reject calls for creditors to have a statutory right to charge interest on overdue commercial debts, even though the small firms minister, Richard Page, opened consultation on the

issue last week. Barbara Roche, Labour's small-business spokeswoman, said the figures she had compiled showed the Department for Education and Employ-ment was the worst offender, having settled £75 million (5 per cent) of bills late.

The Overseas Development Administration was the next worst, with £55.3 million worth of late payments.



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Thousands march in The Hague for Fokker rescue

Mark Milner

HOUSANDS of Dutch workers took to the streets of The Hague yesterday in a desperate, eleventh-hour bid to save their company, the aircraft manufacturer, Fokker.

But as the Dutch prime minister, Wim Kok, admitted ahead of last ditch talks with Daimler Benz chairman Jürgen Schrempp, Fokker's con-trolling shareholder through its aerospace subsidiary, the chances of survival look 'extremely small".

Fokker is caught in a vice; a high cost base and the strength of the guilder against the dollar on one side and a fiercely competitive market on the other. Just how competitive a market Fokker faces was neatly illustrated earlier this week when British Airways said it wanted to buy some 60 new small and medium sized commercial jetliners.

Five companies have been asked to tender, with Fokker just one of three in the frame for the smaller aircraft, along-side British Aerospace and McDonnell Douglas.

In its search for survival, Fokker initially sought a cash injection of close on £1 billion. The question is how to apportion the burden between Daimler Benz and the Dutch

FERE are not many

places where you can buy both a Rolls-Royce

and a toddler's Mickey bike,

nor where BMWs rub bump

ers with BMXs and Piaggios

with Porsches. But at the Brussels motor

show, organised by Febiac

cycle industry federation).

for years.

they have been putting horse

power alongside pedal power

Not surprisingly it is the cars which, in space at least

dominate the show, staged at

Brussels' exhibition centre, a series of buildings constructed in a style that looks to

combine late art deco and in-

stands it is all gleaming mod-els with polished tyres, deep-

pile carpets, Vivaldi and Van-

gelis, though the jazz band on the Subaru stand pulled in a

On Tuesday's press day (two days ahead of the official

the motorcycle hall was rather more fraught. The noise of

opening) the atmosphere in

In the halls housing the car

dustrial brutalism.

respectable audience.

sizeable stake in the company. | Daimler Benz were prepared The pair have been haggling | to dig a little deeper into its

for months.

According to Mr Kok, yesterday, Daimler Benz's aero-space subsidiary, Dasa, wants the Dutch state to contribute between 2.7 billion guilders (£1 billion) and 3 billion guilders (£1.2 billion) over a period of six years to secure Fokker's future.

This would include a fresh capital injection of 1.3 billion guilders, discharge of previous development credits of 800 million guilders and six new annual contributions of 100-150 million guilders each to support development of new

"It is completely unthinkable that such an amount would be paid by the Dutch taxpayer." Mr Kok said. Even allowing for the circumstances — Mr Kok was on his way for some inevitably tough talks with Mr Schrempp

 that is a bleak assessment.
 But even with almost 8,000 jobs on the line, the political consequences of rescuing Fokker with Dutch tax payers money look fraught. Though the Dutch government has not made its own counter-offer public, Dutch sources say it has only offered to waive some 800 million guilders it is owed by Fokker.

The only crumb of comfort Mr Kok could offer was that his government might be pre-pared to rethink its position if

vie with naked power

hammering and sawing com-peted with the sound of rock music. Some of the advertis-

ing slogans were similarly

to be back" and Royal En-

subtle. Triumph's "It's great

field's "Made like a gun", for

The prize for best of the

zuki, with such slogans as

"Get on, Take off" for its DR650 SE and "Built to win"

for the GSX-R 750, while the

VS600 GLF is "An easy ride". By the time the copywriters

had reached the Bandit 1200

they were clearly in top gear with "Get naked".

In the bicycle hall the pace

of preparation was even more frantic. "Can't talk now," said

maeker stand, disappearing behind a stack of cycles.

More than the manufactur-

ers are on show. Tucked away in a corner is the computer

system through which the Bel-gian police monitor traffic-

flow along the country's 2,000-

plus kilometres of motorway

network. "Most of the time

people stuck in traffic jams

the man on the De Sche

MARK MILNER discovers that there is

more to the Brussels motor show than

gleaming cars with polished tyres

pocket. But Daimler Benz has political problems of its own. In an attempt to cut costs at Dasa it has announced that thousands of German jobs will have to go. That makes it difficult to be seen to be bearing too much of the burden of safeguarding jobs in Holland.
There the betting is that the

fate of Fokker will be sealed at a meeting of Daimler Benz's supervisory board on Monday
— though Daimler Benz said
yesterday that it could not say whether or not such a meeting was to take place.

Fokker itself is not sanguine about its prospects. The chairman, Ben van Schaik, was reported by the Dutch press to have burst into tears during a meeting with the company's worker council this week. "I did everything I could," Mr Van Schaik was reported as saying. "Now I don't know what to do

anymore. Fokker shareholders are not too hopeful either. Fokker shares fell to an all-time low yesterday as hopes faded that Daimler Benz and the Dutch government would come to its

The shares fell 13 per cent to 6 guilders as more than 175,660 shares changed hands in the first minutes of trade, making it the most active stock on the

say the information is too late or not complete. We are here to explain how information is

gathered," said Captain Erik

van Poucke, from the Gendar-merie's central dispatch de-

Mind you, the operation has to be done on a shoestring. For

Captain van Poucke's four-

strong team, a police sweep

means borrowing a vacuum

cleaner from the French car

under such constraints. The company has a hall to itself,

running a sound and lights

ranks of television screens

birds, bees, sunsets and the

like before culminating in an array of inflating airbags

which transform into the sun-

burst effect of a dove in flight. The airbags theme is clear

from most of the cars Ford have on display. Most carry the legend "Standaard airbag

de serie." But what have we

here? Nothing less than the

GT90 which, according to the

gine which can propel it from

three seconds longer. No men-

blurb, has a V12 six-litre en-

0 to 100 kilometers in 3.2 seconds, while 0 to 160 takes

tion of an airbag though.

spectacular entitled "The na-ture of safety". Its serried

feature sequences of images of dolphins, babies, humming

Ford does not have to labour

firm on the next stand.



Tide turning: Spanish tourism is trying to change its Costa image and reliance on summer-only trade in the resorts

Beach ball may be over for Spanish tourism

The Government wants to offer more warning bells rang throughout the industry. than sun, sand and sea holidays. ADELA GOOCH in Madrid reports **HP sauce as easy riders**

HE lure of Spain's sun, sea and beaches last year appeared to be as strong as ever with a record 44 million tourists visiting the country and contributing 3,100 billion pesetas (£16.9 billion) — 4.4 per cent of GDP - to the national

exchequer. But these apparently-enconraging figures belie an identity crisis in the holiday industry which is trying to improve its image as the ultimate purveyor of a cheap package break in the sun, while finding it difficult to establish other

forms of tourism. A slump in British visitors is one of the factors causing concern. Together with Germany, they account for just under half of tourists who come to Spain. But last year's hot summer in the UK caused many to

cancel trips abroad and bookings by tour operators for this year are sluggish.

The Spanish Tourism and Commerce Ministry pre-dicts minimal growth of 1 per cent for 1996 and has announced the extension of an incentive scheme, which began in 1992, to update and diversify the types of holi-

day on offer. Over the next three years the ministry is spending 3,500 million pesetas on transforming Spain's image as an exclusively summer beach destination to that of a country where you can holiday all-year-round enloving unique natural resources and cultural

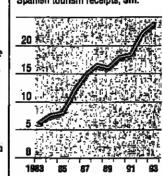
traditions. the end of the 1980s when an overheated peseta provoked a sharp drop in the number of tourists and

"Sun, sea and sand tourism booms when the peseta is low," explains Pablo Morata, editor of the trade jour-nal Editur. "But when the

comes far less competitive." Since 1993 Spain's 17 regional governments have devoted considerable resources to improving

peseta is high Spain be-

Viva España



moting new attractions. Along the Costa del Sol, beaches have been cleaned up and Baywatch-style patrols introduced. Hoteliers in Torremolinos and in Lloret de Mar, on the Costa Brava, have been trying to improve their resort's down-market reputation.

their installations and pro-

Marbella's controversial mayor Miguel Gil, who in recent local elections secured control over many Costa del Sol municipalities, is planning to build an island luxury resort, com-plete with marina and

The north-western area of Galicia is using a resur-gence of visitors — linked with Santiago de Composte-la's pilgrimage route — to promote tourism in the

region. Golfing holidays are also proving a popular draw for high spending, up-market largest cities are being prompted to offer weekend packages and compete with Source Bank of Spain destinations such as Paris or Amsterdam, According to industry analysts, however, more money has so far been spent on encouraging rural and cultural tourism than has actually been generated.

The bedrock of the industry here is definitely the beach holiday." argues Mr Morata. "The island of Majorca alone has more tour-ist beds than the whole of the rest of the Mediterranean." He warns against giving

up on a sector which still has growth potential and the figures bear him out. Last year more tourists than ever visited Spain's resorts outside the summer peak of July and August. According to Mr Morata: People have a far more sophisticated approach to their holidays in Spain. But that doesn't mean they don't like beach holidays. They just enjoy them in a different way and at diffe ent times of the year. It is a very encouraging development and it is up to us to

Seedy sell-off sinks Baltic travel firm

A once-proud Russian shipping company has been dismembered leaving a trail of unpaid bills and a dead body, and bankrupting a Stockholm cruise agency. JON HENLEY reports from Helsinki

ITHOUT any great fuss, a small Scandi-navian travel company went bankrupt last week. The event merited a few paragraphs in local papers. Some 70 people, mainly Swedes and Finns, will lose

based cruise agency, is part of a far wider and altogether nas tier story — of the dismember ment of a once-proud Russian shipping company, of its apparent hijacking for large and instant profit, of corrup tion, threats, and an unsolved

murder. The Baltic Shipping Com-

of anyone's knowledge, the company owns just 20 vessels Apart from another 20 under arrest in countries including Germany, Sweden and Hol-land, the rest have already been seized and sold to help pay off worldwide debts estimated at more than \$250 million. Some of its staff have not been paid since last May, and power, phone lines and heat-ing have been cut off at its ad office.

at Baltic Shipping. Its president, Ivan Luchinsky, was shot last October and the killsummer season on the Helsinki ferry was all but sold out by January. We were making ers have not yet been found. Since then, there have been half-a-dozen threats to execumoney, not huge amounts, but

tives at associated companies One such company is Baltic Line, until its bankruptcy last week the western sales and marketing agent for Baltic Shipping's three passenger ferries. Although only a small cog in the Russian company's worldwide operations, Baltic Line's story provides possibly

1991 to market Baltic Ship-

According to another Baltic Line executive, who asked not to be named, the company had encountered small-scale problems with Baltic Shipping

from the beginning. "It was still a Soviet-era company, it was normal." he said. "Wages were low and there was a lot of stealing go-ing on — not wholesale assetplundering like we're seeing now, but low-level stuff.

Things were moving in the right direction. But then Baltic

Shipping was privatised. The change soon became apparent

the bar and restaurant tak-

ings, for example, from the

videos, nice hotel rooms, TV

sets. You had to pay \$5,000 for

down on what it should have been, but Baltic Line felt things were moving in the right direction.

But then Baltic Shipping was privatised. Its main share holders became the Russian transport ministry, which holds about 30 per cent, St Petersburg city council with 30 per cent, and a group of foreign investors with 25 per cent. Employees hold the rest.

"The change was apparent fairly quickly," said one Baltic Line executive. "Early in 1994 the new owners asked us to remove the on-board controlers, and by November they assumed full responsibility for all on-board revenues. Over \$1 million a month disappeared."

Soon Baltic Shipping began defaulting on its bills. Port au-

companies and other suppli-

mounted. Baltic Line paid ur-gent invoices itself, using

ticket sales to keep the vesse sailing. Its Stockholm direc-

several trips to Russia to try to

ers were not paid. Claim

avert the crisis.

ing imminent arrest by the Finnish seamen's union. Examining the sales, documented in the trade press, industry sources now believe the strategy that brought Baltic Shipping to its knees was simple. First, drain the company of

withdrawn from service, fac-

cash by collecting all revenues and refusing to pay bills. Then, when arrests are unavoidable, use companies apparently linked to individ-ual shareholders of Baltic Shipping to buy back the best vessels at a fraction of their market value.
"It's brilliant, really," said

one source. "Everyone gets a slice, from the foreign share-holders who arrange the purchases to people at the transport ministry who turn a blind eye.

"Last month, one vessel val-ued at \$5-6 million returned to Petersburg after a \$1.5 million refit. It was arrested immediately, and bought by a company belonging to a member of Baltic Shipping's manage-ment for \$900,000 in cash."

The Russian transport ministry has now launched an investigation into possible malpractice at Baltic Shipping — but as a 30 per cent stakeholder its impartiality is open

to some question. Meanwhile, Toni Schonfelder and Alf-Hakan Romar are making 70 people redundant. They are understandably bitter. "We had a good company here," said Mr Schonfelder. "A healthy bal-

ance sheet and a market that was growing 15 per cent a

Belgians plan mega-bank

Mark Milner

ELGIUM'S fragmented financial services industry looks set for a radical restructuring with political approval for the construction of a mega-bank and analysts' predictions of further consoli-dation among the ranks of the country's broking commu-

nity. With more than 100 banks and more branches per head of population than any other country in Europe, Belgium's banks have been under in-creasing competitive pressur sures have intensified with the arrival of some aggressive niche players. Now the politicians, most

latterly the country's deputy prime minister, Elio Di Rupo have given the green light for the creation of a big bank from Belgium's top players. They are worried monetary union will undermine the Belgian banks' domestic supremacy. Shareholders in two of the

big three. Générale de Banque and Banque Bruxelles Lam-bert, have indicated support for a possible super-bank, though the third member, Kredietbank, which has strong Flemish ties, is reported to be keen to main-

tain its independence. Belgium's broking community has already seen significant changes. According to Geoffrey Vermeire, a director of Smeets Verbaet, one of Belgium's leading brokers, the stock exchange had around 200 members at the start of the decade. Now there are around 80 member firms, of whom Mr Vermeire reckons about three-quarters are independents. Over the next couple of years, he forecasts, mergers will have cut that number down to between 15 and 20. Others believe the number will be even smaller.

The restructuring may be a predominantly domestic af-fair, with limited foreign in-volvement. Smeets, for example, has held talks with half a dozen smaller Belgium firms but, according to Mr Ver-meire, its £6.5 million turn-over is pretty small beer compared with the big London Not surprisingly for a

country where the national debt is the equivalent of around 130 per cent of gross domestic product, Belgium has a sizeable bond market but some 95 per cent is held by Belgium and Luxembourg insurance companies, whose conservative strategies keep turnover below a level likely to excite foreign bond dealers The European Union's Investment Services Directive, which in theory came into effect this month, will make it possible for foreign firms to become "remote members" of the Belgian stock market, though it is not expected to become practically possible until late spring or early sum

Even then big foreign firms looking to execute trades on the market may prefer, for tac tical reasons, to use a local

their jobs.
But the collapse of Baltic
Line, a thriving Stockholmthe strongest clues as to what happened.

pany, founded over 150 years ago, was once one of Russia's foremost transport concerns. At the end of 1993, its last year in state ownership, it owned 180 ships and employed 17,000 people from St Petersburg, its bome base, to Sydney. Two years later, to the best

Not many people want to. talk about the past two years

ping's passenger ferries Anna Karenina, llyitch and Konbarman to the captain to the president. They used the stantin Simonov, sailing between St Petersburg, Stock-holm, Helsinki and Kiel. It took full advantage of the thav that followed the collapse of a chief steward's job, then a bit more each month if you the Soviet Union, averaging a 90 per cent occupancy rate on the routes in the four years of

"There's a very good market out there," said Alf-Hakan Romar, managing director of the Helsinki branch. "A lot of people — not just Finns and Swedes but Americans and Britons — want to take the boat to St Petersburg. The 1996

wanted to keep it."
Theft was rife, so the average on-board revenue from each passenger was only 60p a voyage, Mr Romar said. Baltic Line installed strict on-board controls and made "a very big effort" to change the crew culture. By the end of 1993, shipboard income was up to £22 a

passenger - still 40 per cent

But the same story was being repeated around the

world: unpaid bills, penniless crew members and angry creditors. By 1995, the first vessels were being arrested. In the Baltic, two ferries sur-vived until December before being seized against claims of \$300,000 and \$500,000 in Stockholm and Kiel. The third was

year. "Welcome to the new

State 'paid

£208mot

bills late

iet







Update

its existence.

☐ GALERIES Lafayette, the prestigious French depa ment store, is expected to lay off 1,000 staff as a result of growing losses, worsened by last month's strikes, *writes* Alex Duval Smith. On Monday the group,

which employs 15,000 staff in France, is expected to an-nounce the closure of five of its stores outside Paris. Last month, department

stores were deprived of the traditional Christmas shopping spree because of a three-week transport strike over government changes to the welfare system. For Galéries Lafayette, whose Paris flagship in Boulevard Haussmann is Europe's biggest inner-city department store, the strike

followed two years of decline. In 1994, when the group closed its New York store, it registered losses of Fr508 million (£67.7 million). Last year, the figure to October was Fr282 million.

☐ CREDIT Lyonnais, France's troubled stateowned bank, said it may have difficulty fulfilling some of the promises made to the European Union to win approval of its planned

Jean Peyrelevade, the bank's chairman, told the board of directors that certain commitments made on the bank's behalf by former Finance Minister Alain Madelin "would have a negative impact on the financial situation of Credit Lyonnais."

rescue by the French state.

□ KLM Royal Dutch Airlines yesterday denied newspaper reports it was seeking an alli-ance with British Airways. "We are not in talks," KLM spokeswoman Marjolein Wenting said.

mum price on Czech-made pig iron sold in the European Union to protect its domestic industry from a flood of imports. In a statement in the EU's Official Journal, the commission said Czech pig iron must be sold above 149 European currency units (£123) per metric ton The difference between the actual and minimum price will be collected in the form of an anti-dumping duty.

☐ THE European Commis-

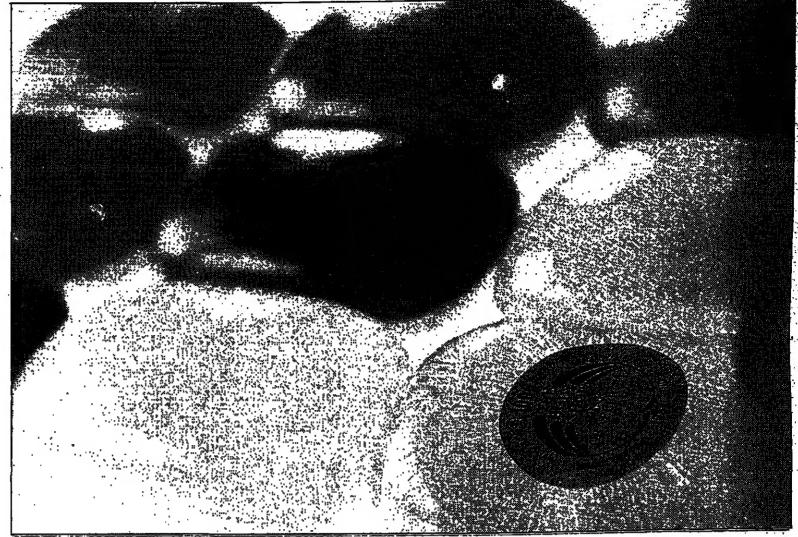
sion has imposed a mini-

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Finance Guardian

Is beauty more than skin deep?



ROGER COWE looks at Body Shop which accepted the idea of stakeholders long before its present fame and has asked them how they think the company's doing

The Body shop... UK tranchisees US franchiseer Suppliers

always worn its Now it is attempt ing to prove that its values go deep, with next week's publication of a "Social Statement" which is a model for what the stakeholder society could ulti-mately mean for business

The stakeholder concent has suddenly become fashion able, and controversial, because of its promulgation by Labour leader Tony Blair. This could be the Big Idea of the next government, although it is far from clear what the idea means on the grand political level.

In business, however, the concept of multiple stakehold ers is well developed, even if there is no consensus yet on the kind of relationships which companies should have with these various interest groups such as employees, customers, the communities in which they operate and

society at large.
Responsibility to shareholders has always come first, but in the past few years there has been pressure from several different directions for com panies to become more widely

accountable. First, many mainstream businesses have come round to the view that the singleminded concentration on "shareholder value", which was fashionable in the 1980s, not the best way to build their companies. Influenced by the success of Japanese competitors, a strong body of opinion

prehensively in the 1995 report from the Royal Society for Arts, Tomorrow's Company, arguing that companies will become more successful if they recognise the interests of employees, suppliers and Body Shop represents a dif-

ferent strand. In fact, it is the only representative among major public companies of the ethical business community. Founders Anita and Gordon Roddick have long made explicit certain values, especially on animal welfare and environmental issues, and made it clear that despite the company's successful flotation on the stock market in 1984, they do not regard share-holders as their sole (or even main) stakeholder group.

The Roddicks' ethics have been seriously questioned over the past couple of years with campaigning US journal ist Jon Entine compiling a well-researched dossier containing allegations ranging from the initial Body Shop concept to the quality of the company's products. Those allegations were

fiercely disputed by Body Shop but the publication of a social statement, independently verified and scrutinised, is a better answer than the initial aggressive response, even if it has gaps in coverage and there are few benchmarks to compare the results against.

Responding to the Entine allegations is not the primary purpose of the document. promised by US professor Kirk Hanson of Stanford University, who will report more

broadly on the company's Nevertheless, the social

statement does address many

of the issues raised by Mr Entine. For example, it high-lights customers' confusion about what is "natural"; it auges franchisees' attitude to the company (although omitting the crucial issue of

the financial relationship);

and it examines the Trade Not

Aid project. The approach was based on similar work done by the Third World trading company Traidcraft, with techniques developed by New Economics Foundation (NEF). Put simnly, Body Shop has asked members of each stakeholder group what they think of the

That vastly oversimplifies and undervalues the process, which has taken about three years to complete from its inception. But It also emphas that the docu marily a collection of attitude surveys rather than a social audit, as it was originally in-

YPICALLY, focus groups were first convened for each of 10 stakeholder groups to about the company's performance so far as that group was concerned. A questionnaire was then constructed and the statement contains the summa rised responses, together with some hard facts on issues such as absenteeism and customer complaints, and a response by Body Shop on the main issues raised. Separate documents deal with animal welfare and environmental performance.

Independence was gained by the involvement of NEF, by the independent processing o questionnaires, and by gather ing together a panel of 13 experts who were able to chal-lenge the detail or the generality of the statement.

The full social statement runs to 60 pages. It will not be distributed widely, but will be accessible on the Internet (at an address based on the company's motto: www.think-actchange.com). But an abbreviated version has been produced as a broadsheet

newsletter The full social statement hows substantial numbers of stakeholders at odds with the company on key issues.

of these responses. It shows that while the bulk of respondents believe in Body Shop's principles, many have seriou doubts about how the company attempts to put those principles into practice. Thus very few people doubt that Body Shop cares about its stakeholders. But significant pany portrays its business practices accurately.

Each group of stakeholders has delivered some such shocks to the company. Staff were, on the whole, supportive of the company's values in principle and practice, and satisfied with their jobs. But just less than half agreed that its commitment to being a caring company was evident day by day, and there was serious dissatisfaction with several aspects of training and development. More ominously, things seem to be getting worse. More staff disagreed than agreed that the company than it was a year ago. There was also some scepticism about the whole process: only 59 per cent agreed that senior management would take the

Franchisees were mostly concerned about communica-tions with Body Shop. Like other groups, they broadly be-

results of the survey seri-

lieve that the company per forms well against its stated mission, but with some serious gaps. Most alarmingly for the company, 47 per cent of UK franchisees do not agree that Body Shop portrays its business practices accurately

AMPAIGN groups (or NGOs) were the most critical set of stakeholders, although a low response rate makes it difficult to draw solid conclusions. As well as the broad issues already mentioned, many of those who did respond complained about their dealings with Body Shop. While praising the dedication and integrity of indi-

viduals, a substantial minority said Body Shop did not deliver on its promises, was were not clear. One controversial issue which was not susceptible to

the survey approach was Body Shop's Trade Not Aid campaign, and particularly its relationships with Third World groups which its trade links are intended to help. These trade partners were addressed differently. Five of the 12 groups were chosen for "direct dialogue" — they were visited by NEF or evaluators from the specialist panel, and the Social Statement reports their views. Most were pleased with

their Body Shop deals, but there were concerns that the company would not provide reliable supply contracts, and about the danger of becoming dependent on the company rather than establishing eco-nomic independence.

This section of the Social Statement does settle one issue, however - the importance of the Trade Not Aid project in Body Shop's business.

In the 1994-95 year, the company paid £183,521 to its fair trade partners. That was 2.1 per cent of its total raw mate rial purchas

Findings such as these may only fuel the debate about Body Shop's ethical performance, rather than settling it. That will be no bad thing, as David Wheeler, head of the company's ethical audit de-partment, acknowledged: "We want people to be critical --it's not about Body Shop prov-ing that it is perfect. It is a basis for dialogue, creating a platform for informed discussion. We want to allow stake holders to speak their minds. There are a lot of areas where

we need to improve." Whatever you think of the results, or of the gaps in coverage, it has certainly been a brave exercise. But will oth companies follow suit, if all they can expect is a lot of expense, management time and

IMON Zadek of NEF believes so. He says several major compa the process, not because of their social values but because they believe it could help their

Anita Roddick says compiling the Social Statement is al-ready helping Body Shop. "We are delighted to see that different paris of the business recog-nise the unprovement points necessary to maintain the support of their stakeholders," she writes in the introduction, where she also expresses both the pain from, and the hopes for, the whole process.

"We hope that, in publishing this social statement, we have planted a flag. It is a flag that carries a few battle scars, but it is emphatically not a flag of surrender or apology."

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Stuffing the Germans



David Gow

ULINARY Travels Through Germany should be the ultimate slim volume, a 75 pfennig (33p) rival to Penguin's 60p series, perhaps. German cuisine, whether high or new, is, after all, an oxymoron, epitomised by a vinaigrette containing a quarter of a litre of oil and yoghurt poured over limp

Or, as we now know from one of the co-authors of this newly-launched book, Hannelore Kohl. wife of Helmut, an endless variety of wurst - of which the average German consumes 25 kilos a year. And, mein Gott, 88 per cent of the Chancellor's fellow-citizens, or 74 million from Dresden to Disseldorf, eat it for their supper every evening. Washed down

We are what we eat, of course. It is a truism that

Helmut Kohl, all 125 kilos of him, embodies in his very corpulence the homely. self-assured security des perately sought by Germans in an *angst*-ridden world. He lards, Falstafflike, the carth or, at least. Europe in his huge pres-ence. That's why he's a four term Chancelior.

But German cooking also mirrors its economy. Pork roll in milk. carp in black beer, beer dumplings with duck breast stuffing and plum sauce, above all the Saumagen (Rhenish haggis) dished up by the Kohis to visiting dignitaries to their humble bungalow in Oggersheim, these all typify the state of the economy.

Too fat, too heavy, too dear, as Die Zeit, the liberal Hamburg weekly, put it in early 1993. Those piles of soggy potatoes drowning in copious gravy, those stodgy dumplings in runny stew. can be seen as the fitting nourishment of an over-fed, over-indulged workforce in an over-regulated, overpriced industry.

Kohl, launching the book this week. hoped it would provide proof that Germans are more than just "serious. hard-working, reliable and punctual". How about humourless. outmoded, sluggish? Lacking in flair and imagination? The Chancellor, ironi-

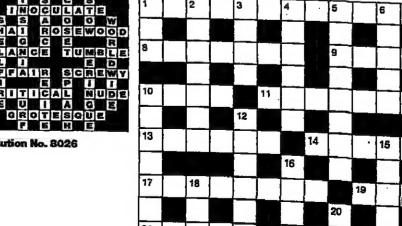
cally, has spent the last two or three years trying to persuade German industry and workers to slim down. Lean production, lean management, have become the ouzz-words of the 1990s as the cheaper, fitter competition from the Far East, Central Europe and Latin America eats into German

markets at home and abroad. And, with this, of course, lean cuisine, *nou*velle cuisine, a l'allemand. Or twice the amount of food you would get in Paris, Rome and London. But this is the only thing

that will force the Germans to go on a prolonged diet. As yesterday's news from the economics ministry underlined, the country's economy shrank last year and could be set for a further six months of slimming before an upturn in expansion in the second half of the year. Pay cuts in real terms and hundreds of thousands of job losses, a positively British cuisine, may be the menu for the Germans in the coming months and

But, as we Brits know to our cost, slim-line meals do not bring plenitude and a secure feeling of well-being Gargantuan Helmut could well be excused for thinking aloud: Die Briten sind uns Wurst. (We don't give a sausage for the Brits).

Quick Crossword No. 8027



Across

1 Aid to problem solving (9,4) 8 Passage (7) 9 Hole in the head (5) 10 Remind sharply? (4)

11 Manner of speaking (8) 13 Amateur (6) 14 Gallery or slatted door (6 17 Topped (B) 19 Rum and water (4) 21,22 They cause the next month to flower (5,7)

24 i em yours (6,7)

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Down 1 Domestic animal (3) 2 Rhetoric (7)

3 Type of window or thick ribbon (4) 4 Expense (6) 5 Prohibit (8) 6 Fabric from flax (5)

10 Florida resort (4,5) 12 Line of latitude (8)

18 Seragtio (5)

20 Having little money (4) 23 Take a pew (3)

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7 Seasonal chocolate (6,3)

15 Plant often lemon-scented 16 Count of population (6)